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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 1 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1944 TEN CENTS

COPY

$145,724,132 Increase In Film Stocks

Many Film Issues Made New Highs in 1943

Motion picture shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange advanced $145,724,132 in market value during 1943, many touching their highest prices in several years.

The rise brought total valuation of film stocks on the "Big Board" to $750,535,246, compared with $604,811,114 at the end of 1942. (Five-year comparison of motion picture stock and bond prices appears on page 8.

Trading was heavier in all motion picture securities during 1943, some having a turnover two and three times that of the preceding year, indicating that Wall Street's bullishness on the industry, already evident last year, became stronger during 1943.

This accounted for the ability of film shares to show independent strength and while they followed

(*Continued on page 8*)

Skouras to Meet With Ad Executives

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 2.—Charles Skouras, national industry chairman for the Fourth War Loan drive, has called a meeting for tomorrow with radio heads of advertising agencies to plan radio cooperation with films on the campaign.

Preliminary discussions with representatives of the Hollywood Victory Committee regarding a new plan for participation by stars were held at the weekend, but details are being

(*Continued on page 3*)

Grainger Calls 2nd Republic Meeting

James R. Grainger, president of Republic Pictures, will hold the second in a series of sales conferences on Jan. 7-8, at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, with Midwestern district sales manager Edward Walton and Southern district sales manager Merritt Davis heading contingents from those territories. Francis Bateman, Western district sales manager, will also attend.

Discussion will center around details

(*Continued on page 3*)

Revised Decree Draft Is Delayed

Lawyers for the five major decree companies are not expected to have their draft of the revised consent decree ready to present to Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark before the end of this week or possibly even later.

Meanwhile, the motion picture arbitration division of the American Arbitration Association will this week renew its lease, for one year, on Appeal Board headquarters at 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

Indication Seen in Court Moves, Extort Gangsters May 'Sing'

Federal Judge John Bright, on the motion of Boris Kostelanetz, special Federal prosecutor, has extended the term of Court for three years, following sentencing Friday of six Capone gangsters and Louis Kaufman, former Newark labor leader, who extorted over $1,000,000 from the film industry. The move was seen as significant, indicating an expectation that some of those jailed will 'talk' and name confederates in the gang and in the Chicago political world.

The six Capone-sters were sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined $10,000 each. Kaufman drew seven years and

(*Continued on page 3*)

POST-WAR UNITY URGED BY HOPPER

Carolina Owners to Convene Jan. 16-17

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Jan. 2.—Theatre owners of North and South Carolina will meet in annual session at the Hotel Charlotte here on Jan. 16-17.

The first night of the convention will be devoted to a meeting of directors and committee leaders. Monday morning's session will be open to the film industry at large and the Monday afternoon session, at which new officers will be elected, will be open to exhibitors only.

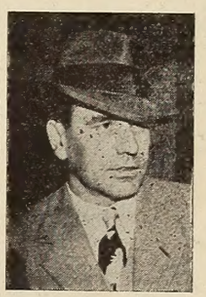
Exhibitor organization leaders who have accepted invitations to attend include Ed Kuykendall, national president of the MPTOA, and Nat Williams, president of the Southeastern Theatre Owners Association.

Emphasis will be placed on the Fourth War Loan Drive opening Jan. 18. H. F. Kincey, general manager of Wilby-Kincey Theatres, is War Activities Committee chairman for North and South Carolina.

Officers of the association are: Roy Rowe, Burgaw, N. C., president; A. F. Sams, Statesville, N. C., first vice-president; Boyd Brown, Winnsboro, S. C., second vice-president; and Mrs. Pauline Griffith, Charlotte, secretary-treasurer.

Important Now to Write Films' Peace Program, WPB Chief Says

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Visualizing competitive conditions that will confront the American industry in world markets after the war, Harold Hopper, chief of the motion picture section of the War Production Board, warns the industry that it must be prepared to put up a united front in seeking representation at the Allied peace table if it is to recapture the free access American films had to world markets before the war.



Harold Hopper

Hopper warned Hollywood to be-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Schlager's Five Are Raised to 15

Edward C. Raftery, president of United Artists, and Sig Schlager, head of Producers Corporation of America, have signed a new six-year deal for a total of 15 pictures to be released through U. A. in that period, it was announced at the weekend. PCA will produce five films every two years. Schlager's original U. A. deal was for five pictures.

The first group of five pictures, Schlager announced prior to his depar-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Boasberg to Tour For Depinet Drive

Charles Boasberg, RKO Radio's Eastern and Central district manager, will leave this morning for New Haven for the first stop on a 40-day tour of every RKO branch in the United States and Canada in behalf of the 1944 Ned Depinet drive, of which he is captain. Accompanying him is Harry Gittleson, Western division assistant sales manager.

From New Haven Boasberg and

(*Continued on page 3*)

Pension Plan Considered By Several Distributors

Several large film companies are considering the adoption of a pension retirement plan for employees, and some have even progressed to a point of complete formulation of such a system.

RKO-Radio first announced the adoption of a pension plan for its employees Dec. 22. Loew's and M-G-M, it is learned, are about to adopt such a plan. This was confirmed by a high Loew official on Friday. Also mentioned as considering such a program are 20th Century-Fox and Columbia, and others. Executives of both companies were unavailable for comment on Friday; their offices closed early for New Year's.

RKO-Radio's plan provides both re-

(*Continued on page 3*)

N. Y. House Workers Granted Increases

Approximately 1,200 cleaners, porters, matrons and night watchmen in some 400 theatres in this area of Loew, Randforce, Brandt and other circuits will receive a $2-a-week wage increase, effective Jan. 9. The increase has been approved by the War Labor Board.

Employees were represented by Theatre and Amusement Service Employees Union, Local 54, BSIEU, AFL, which has applications for similar increases pending before the WLB for employees in the same categories in the RKO and Skouras circuits. The two dollar a week increase brings the minimum for this type of help up to $23 a week.

PN1993
.M43



20th Century-Fox ushers in the crowning achievement in motion pictures with an innovation in showmanship! This heroic figure of Bernadette is reproduced from the vertical 24-sheet which is available in full color for advertising "The Song of Bernadette" and which is now being used in New York to herald the Broadway opening!

"THE SONG O

IS *Big* IN E



Personal Mention

LOUIS NIZER, film lawyer and author of the new book, "What to Do with Germany?" and LELAND STOWE will debate that subject over Mutual Tuesday night.

•

JOHN J. MALONEY, M-G-M Central division manager, due in New York this week for home office conferences, will instead go to St. Louis where he will remain for the next few weeks.

•

R. A. FOSTER, Community theatre manager, Yarmouth, N. S., has made three blood donations to the war blood bank of the Red Cross, and conducted a special campaign in his theatre for this cause.

•

NORMAN AYERS, Warner's New York Metropolitan and New England district manager, was in Boston over the weekend and will be in Buffalo today.

•

PHIL SPIEGEL, son of HARRY SPIEGEL, city supervisor of Comerford Theatres, Scranton, Pa., will receive his wings at the U. S. Army base, Panama City, Fla.

•

R. W. BOLSTAD, Famous Players vice-president, Toronto, is back from an inspection of company properties in the Maritime Provinces.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warner's Eastern division sales manager, left over the weekend for Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

•

JOHN P. BYRNE, M-G-M district manager, has returned to headquarters in Detroit after a brief visit at the home office.

•

BRYAN D. STONER, M-G-M Pittsburgh branch manager, returned to his headquarters after a one-day home office visit.

•

KATHRYN WHEELER, secretary to CHARLES AARON, M-G-M Kansas City office manager, was a home office visitor late last week.

•

SEYMOUR POE is the father of a baby girl, AMANDA JANE, born to his wife, EDITH, at Women's Hospital, last Friday.

•

JOHN X. QUINN, M-G-M St. Louis branch manager, is ill in a local hospital.

•

GROVER LIVINGSTON, M-G-M salesman in Oklahoma City, has been inducted into the Army.

•

JACK FLYNN, M-G-M Western sales manager, will return to New York today from Chicago.

•

HORACE FREE of Ross Federal Service, has been inducted into the Army.

•

GRADWELL SEARS is on a hunting trip in Florida.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

EXHIBITION has had repeated warnings out of Washington that the Treasury's which is to say the Administration's, 30 per cent Federal admission tax proposal is neither dead nor sleeping, but is a continuing objective, and one which may yet be realized.

The Administration does not like the new revenue bill. Secretary Morgenthau has been waging a personal campaign against it during the current Congressional recess and may be expected to step up his opposition when Congress reconvenes next Monday. The Administration's opposition to the present revenue bill is based on its alleged failure to provide adequate revenue to finance the war and the means to curb inflation. A high admission tax is regarded by the Administration as one of the essentials of any acceptable tax program.

•

The industry's position is that the 30 per cent tax rate will not be of aid in accomplishing either of those very desirable Administration aims on the one hand, and will do serious if not irreparable damage to the industry, on the other.

Organized exhibitors contend that the higher admission tax will curtail theatre patronage and will proportionately reduce Federal revenue from the admission tax for that reason. If that premise is correct, then the money withheld by the public from theatre admissions, because of the higher rates, will be spent elsewhere and no contribution to the fight against inflation will be made from that source.

The moment that limited and low income groups decide that the price tag on motion pictures has made them a luxury item, that moment will theatre attendance suffer, and with it, Federal admission tax collections and war revenue. But elimination or curtailment of the theatre patronage of such groups will not affect the amount of limited spending money available to them. That will remain the same but it will be channeled into other lines of purchasing; purchasing which will be of a "consumers' type", rather than theatre attendance, which "consumes" nothing, unless it be the fabric which covers posteriors, which is perennially subject to considerable wear, whether in war or in peace.

The spending will go into all types of cheap jewelry, wearing apparel, confections, and other cash outlets of an inflationary nature.

•

Yet, in spite of this, exhibition has had the frank advice in recent weeks of both Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, and Abram F. Myers, Allied States chairman, that Washington still is endeavoring to have enacted a 30 per cent admission tax, or, according to Kuykendall, even a 40 per cent tax. Exhibitors have been admonished to begin preparations now to oppose this aim of the Administration.

The tax situation facing exhibition recalls the words of W. F. Rodgers of Loew's several weeks ago on behalf of a united exhibitor front. If it is impossible to form one national exhibitor organization now, Rodgers said, then exhibitors should immediately work out a method of rapprochement to make possible a united front of the several exhibitor organizations on all major problems. The tax problem is undoubtedly foremost among those today. It is apparent that an amalgamation of exhibitor organizations is not possible at this time. What steps, then, are being taken by exhibitor leaders to attain that essential rapprochement among their several organizations by means of which the critical tax situation may be successfully defended? Was their collaboration in the recent tax hearings as representative and as effective as it could possibly have been?

• •

That two-page color spread of M-G-M's studio luminaries which appeared in *Life* magazine recently was reproduced by the company in appropriate size as the subject for Loew's holiday greetings to more than 14,000 customers whose names appear on its books.

• •

Our favorite industry anecdote of 1943: Boris Morros meets Phil Reisman on Broadway. Boris: "Vell, vell. Gritinks! How you fil, Pheel?"

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 2

WARNERS' three first runs in the Los Angeles-Hollywood area topped all past annual attendance figures by 673,572 paid admissions, although the houses operated on a single bill policy and played only 15 pictures, Jack Warner revealed at the weekend.

•

Richard DeMille, son of Cecil B. DeMille, and Rosalind Jane Shaffer, dancer, were married here at the weekend. Young DeMille is a private in the motion picture branch of the Army Air Corps.

•

Harry M. Hoffman, formerly associated with the Raymond Schreiber circuit in Detroit and recently given a medical discharge by the Army, has established residence in Los Angeles.

M-G-M Auditors and Bookers' Meet Opens

M-G-M auditors and bookers will meet today at the Hotel Astor for the beginning of an all-week conclave here. Charles K. Stern, assistant treasurer of Loew's and Alan F. Cummings, head of M-G-M exchange operations, will preside.

Meanwhile two former M-G-M auditors have been named office managers, according to a weekend announcement by Cummings. Ben Wolfe takes over in Boston today and Alvin Gross will assume new duties in Minneapolis.

Wolfe became a student auditor with M-G-M in 1938 and was promoted to auditor shortly afterward. Gross was a checker in Albany and was transferred to Cleveland as student booker. He was recently honorably discharged from the Marine Corps after a year's service.

Exhibitors Meeting Today on 4th Loan

Queens County WAC war bond chairman Fred Schwartz and his district captains will meet at 10:30 o'clock this morning at Treasury Department offices in Long Island City to plan their participation in the 4th War Loan Drive.

In addition to Schwartz and Treasury officials those scheduled to attend are John A. Cassidy, Sigurd Wexo, Raymond P. Malone and the following captains: Richard Trestler, Ted Rodis, J. Evans Kall, Louis Falk, Ed Douglas, Doreen Camp, Harry Davies, Al Green, Jules Pincus, Earl Wadge, Fred Brunel, Abe Vallet, John Heinz, John Andres, Bernard Zelenko, Mr. Johneck, Warren Bartlett and Frank Reo.

Danger! Man at Work

Red Kann, vice-president of Quigley Publications, will serve as guest editor of MOTION PICTURE DAILY this week while Sherwin Kane, executive editor, is on vacation.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York. 20, N. Y. Telephone Circle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign: single copies, 10c.

Indication Seen in Court Moves, Extort Gangsters May 'Sing'

(*Continued from page* 1)

a $10,000 fine. Attorneys for all seven filed notice of appeal Friday afternoon.

The Chicago gangsters were remanded to jail immediately, but Kaufman was allowed freedom on bail of $25,000, ending appeal.

All Have Criminal Records

All of the defendants, including Kaufman, have previous criminal records, ranging from arrests for murder, armed robbery and highway robbery to disorderly conduct.

Kaufman's record shows a prior conviction for highway robbery and another for burglary.

Extension of the term of court permits the judge later to reduce any of the sentences he imposed today. Extension of the term of the Court was taken as a sure indication that the Government plans to resume the grand jury probe into the affairs of the film industry.

Knox Made Similar Move

Such an extension was made by Federal Judge John C. Knox when he sentenced William Bioff, former representative of the IATSE, and Geo. E. Browne, former IATSE president who were important witnesses against the seven sentenced. Bioff and Browne are expected to win early freedom from jail as a reward.

Judge Bright, in imposing sentences, said the evidence of guilt against the defendants was undisputed and their violations of the Federal anti-racketeering act clear.

Another indictment still to be tried charges those sentenced, except Kaufman, with mail fraud in connection with a two percent wage tax against IATSE members which is said to have netted the mob $1,500,000.

Kostelanetz stated that he will move this case for trial during the first week of February.

Skouras to Meet With Ad Executives

(*Continued from page* 1)

withheld pending further consideration.

B. V. Sturdivant, campaign director, and Seymour Peiser, publicity chairman, left here for New York at the weekend. Skouras expects to leave for New York on Tuesday. Sam Shain of 20th-Fox, who is assisting on Fourth Loan publicity, has also left for New York.

Bosworth Rites

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—Funeral arrangements for Hobart Bosworth, veteran screen actor, who died here late last week of pneumonia, await the arrival of his widow from Washington. A son, George, also survives.

Reissue 'Women in War'

Republic's "Women in War" will be reissued on Jan 25. New advertising material, posters, pressbooks and other accessories are now in preparation.

Unite Now for Post-War, Hopper Warns Industry

(*Continued from page* 1)

gin laying groundwork now for economic and educational problems affecting world trade that will come with peace. The industry must have no diversity of opinion or conflicting personal interests if it is to achieve the important goals that lie ahead, he said.

"The year just beginning," said Hopper, "will in all probability see the end of the war, at least in Europe. Not the least of the many major problems that will have to be dealt with by Allied statesmen in arranging the peace will be the interchange of motion picture films as a part of world commerce.

Great Opportunity

"An opportunity of the greatest importance awaits the American industry in connection with the deliberations over the peace treaty. Here will be the chance to nullify or reduce all or most of the restrictive measures that have been taken by foreign countries against American films.

"Countries have laid down embargoes against Hollywood because of their inability to offer superior pictures or those equally as good," he added. "The industry's foreign outlet was consequently drastically curtailed. The writing of the peace treaty will provide a means for removing these restrictions and embargoes. If the industry sees that its case is properly presented, a way will be opened for giving it greater access to world markets than ever before.

"Allied nations must be made to realize the far-reaching importance of the motion picture as a vehicle of peace. Facilities for giving the industry its rightful place in the post-war world will rest with Allied statesmen assigned to writing the peace treaty. It will be in the hands of statesmen to impose whatever conditions they deem wise for the distribution of films, the interchange of films, in world markets.

"Hollywood asks no favors in the terms to be written. All it asks is that its products be allowed to come in free competition with those of any other country, unhampered by legislation, tax penalties and embargoes which have been imposed in the past. Hollywood should not wait until the victory to be laying its plans for the proper presentation of its case. Its program should be thought out in advance and be ready," Hopper continued.

Hollywood Should Cooperate

"Already (U. S.) Government agencies are giving consideration to the problems of world peace and world trade as they relate to the industry, which, over the years, has proved itself to be the greatest salesman of American goods of any method of salesmanship yet devised. Hollywood should be cooperating with these Government agencies. It should maintain adequate representatives of the industry in Washington available to cooperate.

"Unless the American industry is alive to the needs of the hour, it will miss an opportunity to advance itself and will find the post-war world plagued with the same old restrictions and embargoes that prevented the industry from exploiting foreign markets in the period before the war. Leaders in the industry would do well to ponder the situation," Hopper advised.

Grainger Calls 2nd Republic Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the $2,000,000 appropriation for advertising and publicity of top product, as announced by Herbert J. Yates, Sr., at the company's recent conference in New York.

The Midwestern district will be represented by branch managers Will Baker, Chicago; William Feld, Des Moines; J. G. Frackman, Milwaukee; W. M. Grant, Minneapolis; Harry Lefholtz, Omaha; Nat Steinberg, St. Louis, and franchise holder Robert F. Withers, Kansas City.

The Southern district group will include branch managers Winfield Snelson, Atlanta; Harold Laird, Tampa; J. H. Dillon, Charlotte; L. V. Seicshnaydre, New Orleans; N. J. Colquhoun, Memphis: Lloyd Rust, Dallas; and Glen Alt, Oklahoma City.

The home office will be represented by Bill Saal and Walter L. Titus, Jr.

Hungarian Film Released

"S.S. Louis Kossuth," Hungarian film and the first foreign language short made to assist in the Fourth War Loan drive, had its New York premiere at the Europe Theatre, First Ave. and 79th St., over the week-end. The picture, produced by Danubia Pictures, will be shown throughout the country in connection with the loan campaign.

Schlager's Five Are Raised to 15

(*Continued from page* 1)

ture for the Coast over the weekend, will have a production budget of $5,000,000. First film under the new deal will be a comedy in which Charles Coburn will co-star with another male actor; shooting will start on Feb. 1. The second production will be a musical co-starring Nelson Eddy, Constance Dowling and another player, as yet undetermined.

Schlager also announced the signing of two new producer contracts. He renewed Harry Joe Brown's contract and also signed Al Lewis. The recently formed American Film Corp., Schlager disclosed, is a subsidiary of PCA, and is the first of a series of similar companies to be formed for producing the complete line-up.

Projectionists Nominate

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Chicago projectionists' union, Local 110, IATSE, will nominate new officers on Thursday. There will be at least three slates in the field. An election will follow in February.

MPA to Elect Officers

Motion Picture Associates will hold annual election of officers Wednesday at the Hotel Astor between 12:30 and 2:30.

Several Consider Employee Pensions

(*Continued from page* 1)

tirement salaries and death benefits. It was approved by the company's board of directors, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Dec. 22.

In a statement describing the RKO plan, Floyd B. Odlum, chairman of the board, said: "The plan is designed to reward employees for past and future services by providing pension benefits in addition to federal social security benefits. The plan will include all present regular employees between the ages of 30 and 64 if they have already completed three years of service or as soon as such services have been completed. New employees will likewise be included if between 30 and 60 years of age. It is planned to provide retirement benefits outside the plan for employees now over 64 years of age. Employees in the armed forces of the United States will be included, with full credit for the time spent in the armed forces, if they return to RKO." Several aspects of the Odlum presentation will in all probability be included in pension plans for other companies, being elementary for such programs.

Gov't and Board Must Approve

The Loew plan has been in the formulative stages for almost two years. Approval by the company's board of directors and the Government are necessary, as with RKO. Under the RKO plan no contributions are to be made by employees to the cost of the plan. Annual payments will be made by the corporation to a special trust fund, which will be self-administered.

Belgian Leader at Columbia Luncheon

General Marcel De Baer, Belgian jurist and author of the Inter-Allied Commission's plan for prosecution of Nazi war criminals when peace comes, will speak to the press at a luncheon and private screening of Columbia's "None Shall Escape," on Wednesday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Also scheduled to be present at the luncheon will be Georges Theunis, Belgian Minister of State and Ambassador-at-Large; Dr. J. A. Goris, Belgian Commissioner of Education; Camille Gutt, Belgian Minister of Finance; Frans van Cauwelaert, Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives, and Henry Fast, Belgian Assistant Commissioner of Information.

Boasberg to Tour For Depinet Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

Gittleson will go to Albany. The rest of their itinerary follows: Buffalo, Detroit, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Washington, Charlotte, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Denver, Omaha, Des Moines, Kansas City, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago, Toronto, Montreal and Boston, returning to New York Feb. 11.

Held annually as a billings contest, this year's drive will start officially on Feb. 4, and will run 15 weeks.

BERNADETTE'

ERY RESPECT"

— VARIETY

"'The Song of Bernadette'
is one of the great pictures of all times, in any and all of the meanings of the term."
—Motion Picture Daily

"'The Song of Bernadette'
is one of the great pictures of and for all time!"
—Motion Picture Herald

"'The Song of Bernadette'
money-making potential is enormous. It is in every sense a worthy contender for the Academy Award list."
—Daily Variety

"'The Song of Bernadette'
is a masterpiece. Production by William Perlberg and direction by Henry King are faultless."
—Hollywood Reporter

"'The Song of Bernadette'
is a miracle of film-making. 20th Century-

"'The Song of Bernadette'
20th-Fox's picturization of Franz Werfel's novel, easily proves one of the outstanding offerings of 1943."
—The Film Daily

"'The Song of Bernadette'
is inspiring! Eloquent proof of Hollywood's expanding horizons. 20th Century-Fox can take pride in its accomplishment."
—Harrison Carroll, Los Angeles Evening Herald-Express

"'The Song of Bernadette'
will have tremendous success at the box-office. That it will be a powerful contender for Academy Award honors is conceded."
—Lowell E. Redelings, Los Angeles Citizen-News

"'The Song of Bernadette'
is a great picture. I have seen thousands of pictures in my 30 years of reviewing movies but I have never seen one that touched me so deeply, moved me so greatly and seemed to me to be just the picture

—Virginia Wright, Los Angeles Daily News — —Louella O. Parsons, Los Angeles Examiner

20th CENTURY-FOX
PRESENTS

Franz Werfel's

IG OF BERNADETTE

S • WILLIAM EYTHE • CHARLES BICKFORD
ICE • LEE J. COBB • GLADYS COOPER
KING Produced by WILLIAM PERLBERG
TZ In Charge of Production • Screen Play by George Seaton

20th Century-Fox is very happy to inform the industry . . that following its brilliant premiere and unprecedented press reception . . "The Song of Bernadette" has broken every opening day record at the Carthay Circle and United Artists Theatres in Hollywood . . and continues to break records daily.

Motion Picture Stock & Bond Prices in 1943

High and Low in Stock and Bond Trading for Five Years

(Closing Prices for 1943 in All Charts Are As of the Year-end)

New York Stock Exchange

Stock and Dividend	1943 Sales	1943 High	1943 Low	1943 Close	1943 Net Change	1942 High	1942 Low	1941 High	1941 Low	1940 High	1940 Low	1939 High	1939 Low
Columbia Pictures (½A)	176,800	19¼	9	16⅝	+ 6⅜	11¼	5⅛	7⅞	4¼	8½	3½	14	7¾
Columbia Pictures pfd. (2¾)	13,500	41	30½	40⅛	+ 7⅜	35	24	28½	21¼	26	14¾	30½	15½
Consolidated Film	163,700	3⅝	½	2⅞	+ 2 13/32	¾	3/8	1¼	¾	1⅛	½	2⅛	⅞
Consolidated Film pfd. (1B)	141,200	19¼	7⅜	17¼	+ 9½	9	7	11	7	10½	5¼	12⅛	7¾
Eastman Kodak (5)	99,700	170	146½	160	+10½	151½	108	145½	120¼	166¾	117	186⅛	138⅛
Eastman Kodak pfd. (6)	2,500	184	173	180½	+ 1¾	180	170	182½	160	180	155	183½	155½
Gen. Precision (1)	586,087	24½	13⅝	19⅛	+ 4⅞	14¾	10¾	16¼	9⅝	13⅜	7¾	15½	8⅛
Keith-Albee-Orpheum pfd. (7)	380	115	103⅝	109½	+ 6	103	93½	121½	95	109	95	100¼	85
Loew's, Inc. (2C)	286,300	64½	42¾	58	+12	46¾	37	39⅜	28	37⅝	20½	54½	30½
Paramount (1.60)	1,677,650	30	15½	23⅛	+ 6⅜	17½	11¾	16⅛	10	10⅞	4¼	14⅛	6⅛
Radio-Keith-Orpheum	1,643,800	10⅛	3½	7½	+ 4	3⅞	22	3¾	2	3⅝	2⅛	2⅞	1¼
Radio-Keith-Orpheum pfd. (5B)	59,880	99⅞	54¼	96	+42½	54¼	34⅝	55½	38½	not listed			
20th Century-Fox (2A)	1,172,220	24¾	12⅞	21¾	+ 7⅝	16	7⅛	9⅝	5	13¼	5	26¼	11⅜
20th Century-Fox pfd. (1½)	263,200	34½	25	28⅛	+ 2⅛	26¾	19¼	24	16½	25¼	14	34¼	19¾
20th Century-Fox pr. pfd. (4½)	10,220	101	99	99¾	not listed								
Warner Brothers	1,902,100	15¾	7⅜	11½	+ 3½	8½	4¼	6⅛	2¾	4¼	2	6⅞	3½

A—So far this year; B—Accumulated; C—including extras.

New York Curb Exchange

Stock and Dividend	1943 Sales	1943 High	1943 Low	1943 Close	1943 Net Change	1942 High	1942 Low	1941 High	1941 Low	1940 High	1940 Low	1939 High	1939 Low
Monogram Pictures	312,700	4	7/8	3	+ 3¼	1¼	½	1⅛	¾	1	¾	3½	1
Radio-Keith-Orpheum opt. war.	1,401,100	2⅛	1/32	1¼	+ 1⅛	not listed							
Sentry Safety Control	11,500	5/8	1/8	1/8	+ 1/32	1/8	1/8	½	1/8	1⅛	1/8	9/16	⅛
Technicolor (½A)	351,950	15½	6⅝	12⅜	+ 5⅝	8⅞	6⅞	11	6⅛	16⅜	8½	22¼	9⅞
Trans-Lux (.10A)	282,800	4⅜	1⅝	4¼	+ 2½	1½	½	1	⅜	1⅝	¾	2⅛	1
Universal Pictures (1A)	7,200	19¾	16	17½	—29½	44	25	30½	14⅝	15¾	4	9½	6
Universal Pictures v.t.c. (1A)	83,600	19¾	9⅛	17	not listed 1942								

A—So far this year.

Bonds on Stock Exchange

Bond and Maturity	1943 Sales	1943 High	1943 Low	1943 Close	1943 Net Change	1942 High	1942 Low	1941 High	1941 Low	1940 High	1940 Low	1939 High	1939 Low
Paramount-B'way 3s '55 ct.	516,000	86	67	86	+18⅝	71	58⅛	60½	52	52½	40	57½	45¼

Comparison of Valuation of Stock Issues—1942-1943

Stock	Shares Outstanding	Close 1942	Valuation	Close 1943*	Valuation	Net Change	Net Change
Columbia Pictures	366,268	10¼	$3,754,249	16¾	$6,135,289	+ 6½	+ $2,381,040
Columbia pfd.	75,000	32¾	2,458,250	39¼	2,993,750	+ 8¾	+ 485,500
Consolidated Film	524,973	1 3/32	213,270	3	1,574,919	+ 2 19/32	+ 1,361,649
Consolidated Film pfd.	400,000	7¾	3,100,000	16⅞	6,750,000	+ 9⅛	+ 3,650,000
Eastman Kodak	2,476,013	149½	370,163,943	163½	404,828,125	+14	+ 34,664,182
Eastman pfd.	61,657	178¾	11,021,288	180	11,098,260	+ 1¼	+ 70,972
Gen. Precision	586,087	14¼	8,351,739	19½	11,428,696	+ 5¼	+ 3,076,957
Keith-Albee-Orpheum pfd.	63,586	103½	6,581,151	109½	6,960,477	+ 6	+ 379,326
Loews, Inc.	1,665,713	46	76,622,798	58½	97,444,210	+12½	+ 20,821,412
Paramount	2,465,927	16¾	27,984,277	23¾	58,565,766	+ 7	+ 30,581,489
Radio-Keith-Orpheum	2,753,053	3½	9,635,685	7¾	21,336,160	+ 4¼	+ 11,700,475
Radio-Keith-Orpheum pfd.	128,170	53½	6,857,145	96½	12,368,405	+43	+ 5,511,260
20th Century-Fox	1,741,995	14⅛	24,605,679	22⅛	38,541,639	+ 8	+ 13,935,960
20th-Century-Fox pfd.	917,420	26	23,852,920	28½	26,146,470	+ 2½	+ 2,293,550
Warner Brothers	3,701,090	8	29,608,720	12	44,413,080	+ 4	+ 14,804,360
			$604,811,114		$750,535,246		+$145,724,132

*As of Dec. 24.

Film Stocks in 1943 Jumped $145,724,132

(Continued from page 1)

major trends in the general stock list, their gains were relatively larger, on an average, than those of most industrial, utility and railroad shares at the end of the year. The latter stocks, too, appeared to be more adversely affected by such influences as uncertainty over transition problems in converting war industries to a peace time basis.

In spite of record taxes, motion picture company net income reports were highly favorable during 1943, reflecting mounting box office receipts that proved again that the No. 1 entertainment of the American public seeking relaxation from the strain of war is the motion picture.

Greatest demand for picture stocks centered on Paramount, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner Brothers, which had the largest turnovers and chalked up gains of from four to eight points, and from $5,000,000 to $30,000,000 in market value during the year.

Loew's, while not so active, advanced 12 points to 58 for a market value gain of almost $21,000,000. The low-priced Consolidated Film issues were in favor also, the common closing at around $3 a share, compared with the 1942 final price of 13-32nds. RKO preferred soared 43 points during the year, closing at around 96, after having sold as low as 54¼. Sizable gains were made by Columbia Pictures, Eastman Kodak, General Precision and Keith-Albee-Orpheum issues.

Motion picture securities on the curb and bond markets made corresponding advances.

Forman Named by U. A.

DETROIT, Jan. 2.—Ralph Forman, formerly office manager at the local United Artists exchange, has been appointed to the sales staff here.

Chicago Variety Club Reelects John Jones

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—The local Variety Club, Tent No. 26, has re-elected John J. Jones as chief barker; Jack Kirsch, first assistant chief barker; W. E. Banford, second assistant chief barker; Irving Mack, secretary, and John Balaban, treasurer.

The following committee chairmen were named at a recent luncheon meeting: Lou Reinheimer, finances; J. Rose, membership; Bradford, heart of Variety; Lester Stepner, publicity; Sam Tishman, entertainment; W. Baker, banquet, and E. Brunnell, house.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 2 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1944 TEN CENTS

FILE COPY

Rathvon Tells RKO Pension Plan Details

Plan Also Includes Free Insurance

Employes of RKO, RKO-Radio and affiliated companies will not necessarily lose their accrued benefits in the new pension trust plan when they leave the employ of the company, N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president, revealed, while explaining the plan's highlights in an interview with MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Those who leave the corporation before they are eligible for benefits will receive the monthly pension to which they are entitled once they reach the age of 65, except if they are discharged for dishonesty, disclosing trade secrets, or on account of conviction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, Rathvon explained. Another condition excluding an employe from benefits of the plan will be his having received annual compensation of $5,000 or more from RKO and within two years after

(*Continued on page 6*)

Nine WAC Shorts Complete;12Coming

Year-end report by John C. Flinn, coordinator for the Hollywood division of the War Activities Committee, shows nine shorts completed, two in production, 10 in preparation by studios.

Columbia is preparing one; M-G-M has completed two, is preparing one; Paramount is producing one, preparing one; RKO has completed three; Selznick is preparing two.

Technicolor is preparing one; 20th-Fox has completed two, is preparing one; Universal is preparing one; Wanger is preparing one; Warners has completed two, is preparing two.

Lawrence Dispute at 20th-Fox Cleared Up

Litigation threatened by L. L. (Laudy) Lawrence over alleged wrongful discharge as foreign sales manager of 20th Century-Fox has been settled amicably and privately. Negotiations were conducted on Lawrence's behalf by William B. Jaffe of Rosenblatt and Jaffe, local attorneys, directly with Spyros Skouras.

The settlement is understood to have

(*Continued on page 8*)

Lichtman Says Time Ripe to Plan M-G-M British Production

MONTREAL, Jan. 3.—The time is now ripe to consider M-G-M British production plans in the post war period, Al Lichtman, vice-president of Loew's, stated here today. Lichtman arrived here Friday from Hollywood and is presently waiting passage to London.

"The nature of my business in England," said Lichtman, "is such that I cannot afford to discuss it too broadly at this time, but we feel that with the war picture in Europe as it is there is every possibility that the war may end sooner than was earlier anticipated. With this in mind we feel that the time is now ripe to lay plans for the resumption of M-G-M British film production in England."

In this connection, Lichtman said that while in England he will meet with Sir Alexander Korda, M-G-M head in England, who has "pretentious

(*Continued on page 6*)

Film Coverage of Invasion Planned

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Arrangements for picture and news coverage of the forthcoming invasion of Europe will be incorporated as part of the general plan of strategy, in effect giving the public a "play-by-play report," it was predicted tonight by Palmer Hoyt, retiring director of the domestic

(*Continued on page 8*)

Film Stocks Active On London Market

London, Jan. 3.—Unusual activity in motion picture stocks on the London Exchange here took place at the year's end, provoked by persistent reports that American interests are buying shares in companies here. Gaumont-British, Associated British Pictures and Odeon Theatres all showed substantial unanticipated rises.

In an interview in the *Financial Times*, London, J. Arthur Rank voices hope of an early meeting with Spyros Skouras possibly to obtain 20th Century-Fox's consent to a sale of voting shares controlling Gaumont-British.

Industry in Field Setting Up Local Bond Organizations

With the opening day of the Fourth War Loan Drive less than three weeks away, exhibitors throughout the country are now heading into the last stages of organization for the successful execution of the campaign under the direction of Charles P. Skouras, national chairman, with meetings being set everywhere.

First meeting along the Eastern seaboard will be held today by exhibitors and distributors of Connecti-

(*Continued on page 5*)

Record Grosses Reported By All Broadway Houses

Capacity New Year's weekend business followed in the wake of record week-day grosses during the Christmas to New Year's stretch at key Broadway houses.

The leader is the Roxy, playing "The Gang's All Here" and a stage show headed by Bill Robinson and Jimmy Dorsey and his band. The picture, now in its second week, is headed for a healthy $127,000 and holds for a third starting tomorrow. Five-day gross for the theatre, starting last Wednesday, was $104,800 with the house counting $140,300 on the seven days starting Christmas Day and ending New Year's Day, with

(*Continued on page 8*)

Warner Home Office Workers Get Raises

Distribution of raises to Warner home office white-collarites started at the week-end, retroactive to Aug. 10. A six per cent increase was approved by the Regional War Labor Board with an additional five per cent going to employees who have been with the company ten years or more.

Increases are limited by the fact that no employee can receive more than the maximum established for the job classification into which his or her work falls. In some cases, employees are already receiving the

(*Continued on page 8*)

See Tax Rise Not Effective Until March 1

Fuller Discussion of Tax In Senate Likely

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Foreseeing the impossibility of passing the new tax bill in time to have it become law by Jan. 21, the final date on which the new levies could be put into effect for the first of next month, Congressional leaders today predicted that an increased admission tax would not come into force until March 1 at least.

Senator Walter F. George of Georgia, chairman of the Finance Committee, which reported the bill after Congress adjourned last month, expressed the opinion that the measure could not be put through the Senate and the conference committee in the brief 10-day period which lies between the re-convening of Congress next Monday and the Jan. 21 deadline.

Since it proved impossible to enact the bill in time for the new excise taxes to become effective Jan. 1, the

(*Continued on page 8*)

Odeon Adds Seven Canadian Theatres

TORONTO, Jan. 3.—Paul L. Nathanson today stated that his Odeon Theatres of Canada has acquired seven theatres on equal interest in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario making nine additional houses for the chain in the past three weeks. They include two in British Columbia, previously announced.

The houses are Rothstein units located in Saskatoon, Wilkie, Assiniboia and two in Yorkton, all in Saskatchewan, and at Selkirk, Manitoba,

(*Continued on page 8*)

Metzger Is Back in Hospital in L. A.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3.—Lou Metzger, serving voluntarily as theatres war manpower representative with the War Activities Committee, has been hospitalized here. He had come here for the holidays from WAC New York headquarters.

Metzger joined War Activities in the late fall after recovering from a collapse which kept him in a Kansas City hospital for some time.

Personal Mention

OSCAR DOOB, advertising and publicity director for Loew Theatres: HARRY BRANDT, ITOA president, and EDWARD ALPERSON, general manager of RKO Theatres, left yesterday for Atlanta as a "flying squadron" in connection with the "March of Dimes" campaign.

•

JACK BLOOM, assistant to 20th Century-Fox's Central sales manager L. J. SCHLAIFER, is in Knickerbocker Hospital recovering from an appendicitis operation.

•

DIONYSIA SKOURAS, daughter of SPYROS SKOURAS, and PATTI ALICOATE, daughter of JACK ALICOATE, made their debut at the annual debutantes New Year's ball.

•

PFC. JOE HORANZY, formerly assistant manager at the Warner Embassy in New Britain, Conn., has been appointed an aviation cadet in the Army Air Forces.

•

ROY HAINES, Southern and Western division manager for Warners, left last night for Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City.

•

JULES J. RUBENS, general manager of Publix-Great States Theatres, returned to Chicago last night after a New York visit.

•

ALLAN METZLER, eastern publicity manager for Warner, leaves for Burbank Friday on his first visit to the studios.

•

J. C. BAVETTA, managing director of 20th Century-Fox in Brazil, with headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, is due in New York today.

•

STAFF SGT. WILLIAM CUMMINGS, former New Haven Warner booker, was married to MARIANNE FRANKBERGER.

•

MORRIS MECHANIC, owner of the New Theatre, Baltimore, is spending a few days in New York.

•

SI SEADLER, advertising manager of M-G-M, expects to leave for Hollywood in February.

•

GEORGE SHERMAN, former Republic director and now a producer at that studio, is here from the Coast.

•

RALPH BUDD, Warner personnel head, returned to his desk yesterday after a week's illness due to laryngitis.

•

MORRISON ORR, UA Cleveland branch manager, is in Florida recuperating after a siege of the flu.

•

DOROTHY BRESLAV, of the New Haven Paramount exchange, has returned from Baltimore.

(*More Personal on Page 6*)

Review

"The Uninvited"

(*Paramount*)

YOU don't have to believe in ghosts, although it helps, to trail Ray Milland, Ruth Hussey, Donald Crisp, Gail Russell and Cornelia Otis Skinner with pleasure through this expertly contrived story of the supernatural. That is the message for showmen to convey to their customers, by whatever means they may, for this is no catch-penny fabrication of thrills and chills concocted for the horror-picture trade. On the contrary, it's a piece of distinguished product, rich in the values that count for entertainment, and it requires of its observer no more than that he be old, calloused and credulous enough to regard it as such.

The screenplay, by Dodie Smith and Frank Partos, from the novel by Dorothy Macardle, tells in straight-away fashion the story of a brother and sister who buy a reportedly ghost-inhabited house and come in time, and in this order, to hear, see, combat, talk with and vanquish the ghost accountable for extensive misery in the lives of the original owner of the premises and his grand-daughter. At the root of the persistent ghost's unwillingness to depart the scene is a sordid, triangular episode, revealed in the past tense, the nature of which suggests that the attraction be treated as a ghost story for adults rather than for the juvenile who commonly support this type of picture. It's a tight and snugly drawn script which has a charm of its own and makes the ghost seem credible enough for practical purposes by the time it's brought before the camera.

Performances of those named above, somewhat especially Miss Russell's, are of top quality, which may be said again about those of Dorothy Stickney, Barbara Everest and Alan Napier. Lewis Allen's direction is unfalteringly effective. Charles Brackett produced the film, a job to be proud of professionally.

Running time, 97 mins. "A."* Release in block No. 3.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"A" denotes adult classification.*

Wm. Rodgers Lauds War Work of Press

"The occasion of my retiring as chairman of distribution of the War Activities Committee of the motion picture industry affords me this opportunity of saying thanks for the many cooperations the trade press has given in the carrying on of this work," William F. Rodgers, M-G-M distributor chief, said in a statement here yesterday to trade paper editors.

"The improvement in the distribution of war films, a record of which the industry may well be proud, the showings of war bond premieres and the various drives would not have been possible had it not been for the fulsomeness of the cooperation and the desired publicity and intelligent reporting of these activities," he added.

"A continuance of such cooperation on the part of all elements of the industry, and particularly on the part of the trade press will mean much to the motion picture's war effort, concluded Rodgers.

Monogram Signs Publix

Publix Great States Theatres, with 56 houses in Illinois, has signed for the Monogram 1943-44 program, Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager, announced here.

1,052 in Service

Former employes of Ross Federal Service now serving in the armed forces total 1,052.

Joe Weil Back with War Zone Pictures

Joe Weil, film publicist and exploiter, last with Universal Pictures, has returned to New York from Italy, Sicily and North Africa, where he has been in charge of shooting 16-millimeter documentary films for the Motion Picture War Corps of the American Red Cross.

Leaving here last September, Weil spent three and a half months taking pictures to show the use of blood plasma in front line hospitals, activities at the Red Cross clubs and of clubmobiles in the field, and of field directors working with enlisted men. He is now cutting and editing the films, which will be released in connection with the Red Cross war fund drive in March.

Hits Independents' Percentage Deals

CINNCINNATI, Jan. 3.—Declaring that "selling formulas set up by distributors are actually devices used as subterfuges for acquiring an unusual type of partnership in independent theatre ventures which confiscate profits without absorbing any of the losses," the Indignant Exhibitors Forum, Willis Vance, chairman, in a resolution admonishes all independent and subsequent-run exhibitors "to diligently and forcibly as possible resist the distributors' unfair practice of forcing percentage engagements."

Coming Events

Jan. 3-10—M-G-M bookers and auditors meeting, Hotel Astor, New York.
Jan. 5—Motion Picture Associates election, Hotel Astor, New York.
Jan. 5—Columbia Pictures luncheon, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York.
Jan. 7-8—Republic sales conference, Drake Hotel, Chicago.
Jan. 10—Charles Francis Coe to speak under sponsorship of Advertising Club, Cleveland.
Jan. 12—Max Reinhardt memorial program, Hollywood.
Jan. 16-17—Theatre owners of Carolinas meet, Hotel Charlotte, Charlotte, N. C.
Jan. 18-Feb. 15—Fourth War Loan Drive.
Jan. 23—IATSE executive board meeting, Netherlands Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati.
Jan. 24-30—March of Dimes campaign.

Reception for Hodson

The film division of the British Information Services here will be host at a reception for J. L. Hodson, writer of the "Desert Victory" commentary, tomorrow afternoon at five at the New Weston Hotel.

NEW YORK THEATRES

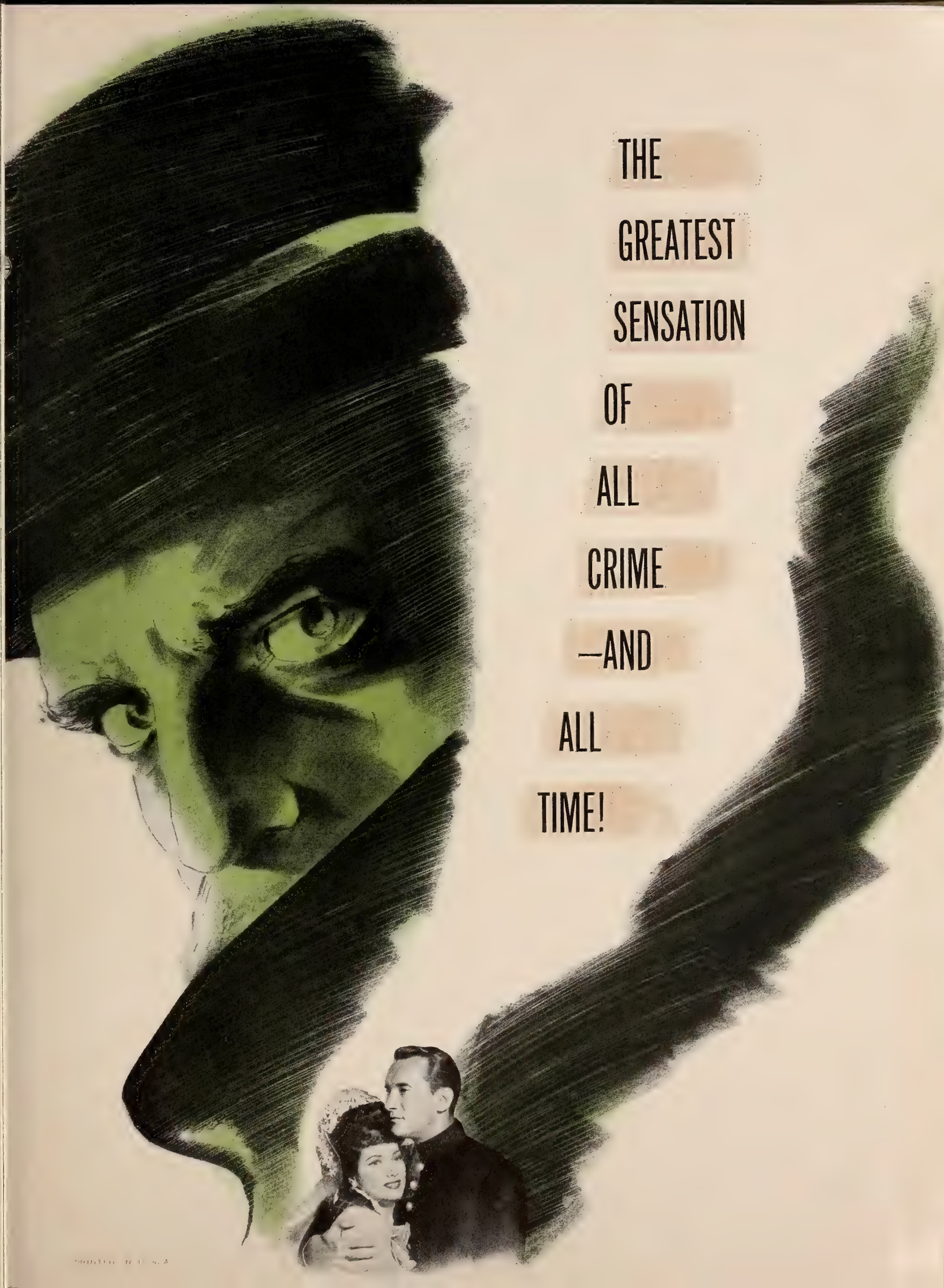
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

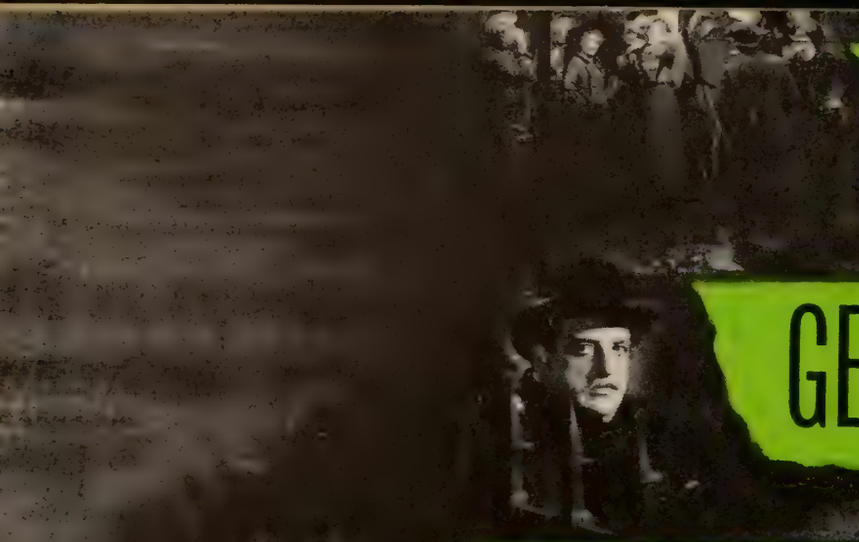
Dorothy LAMOUR · Dick POWELL · Victor MOORE
in
"RIDING HIGH"
A Paramount Picture
IN TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON
TOMMY DORSEY and Band
PARAMOUNT Times Square

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THE NORTH STAR
NEW VICTORIA B'WAY & 46th • RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th
Continuous performances, popular prices, doors open 9:00 A.M., midnight show every night both theatres.

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On Stage
HUMPHREY BOGART
in
'SAHARA'
In Person
Patricia Morison
Harrison & Fisher
Jackie Gleason
Eric Blore

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building. William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres. International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter. Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign: single copies, 10c.


THE
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—AND
ALL
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THE LODGER



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Aubrey Mather • Queenie Leonard • Doris Lloyd

David Clyde • Helena Pickard

Directed by JOHN BRAHM

Produced by ROBERT BASSLER

Screen Play by Barre Lyndon • From the Novel
by Mrs. Marie Belloc Lowndes
Dance Director Kenny Williams

Mrs. Marie Belloc Lowndes' famed, fear-filled story of love, hate, mystery — becomes the mightiest sock-shocker ever—as brought to the screen by

20 CENTURY-FO

Industry in Field Setting Up Local Bond Organizations

(*Continued from page* 1)

cut in New Haven, at the Hotel Taft. It will be a luncheon meeting and will be attended by Gov. Raymond Baldwin, Connecticut, and Mayor John W. Murphy, New Haven.

Combined exhibitor groups of Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut and the MPTO are behind the campaign and will be represented at the meeting. One hundred exhibitors in addition to distributors and honor guests are expected.

Fabian, Schreiber to Speak

S. H. Fabian, chairman of the theatres division of the War Activities Committee, and Ed Schreiber, publicity director of the WAC, will be among the speakers. Others who will address the meeting are Mayor Murphy and Col. Arthur Reeves of the Army Airport Technical Corps of Yale. Specific purpose of the meeting is to formulate committees and groups for the duration of the drive.

Harry F. Shaw of Loew's, state chairman, heads the advisory committee, which also includes: Morris Bailey, Lou Brown, Dan Finn, Hy Fine, Dr. Jacob Fishman, Murray Goldstein, I. J. Hoffman, Henry Needles, Barney Pitkin, Dan Pouzzner, Morris Podoloff, George H. Wilkinson and B. E. Hoffman, treasurer.

'Free Movie Day' Is Set for 18th

Plans were made to complete final arrangements to publicize "Free Movie Day," set for Jan. 18 here, at a meeting held yesterday by Robert Wolff of RKO-Radio, serving as distributor chairman for the War Activities Committee in New York.

The meeting, held at WAC headquarters, was attended by branch managers of all companies, zone distribution chairmen and the salesmen's field committee. The 4th War Loan Drive and the March of Dimes were both discussed.

Present at the meeting were: county co-chairmen Ray Moon, 20th-Fox, Manhattan; Jack Bowen, M-G-M, Bronx; Phil Hodes, RKO, Kings; Moe Sanders, 20th-Fox, Queens; Dave Burkan, United Artists, Richmond; Irving Wormser, Columbia, New York State; branch managers Clarence Eisman, Warner Bros.; Jack Ellis, U.A., and Myron Sattler, Paramount. Sam Rinzler, WAC co-chairman in the New York area; the entire salesmen's field committee also attended.

Michelove Announces War Loan Committee

Dan Michelove, New York chairman for industry war bond sales in the Fourth Loan drive, yesterday announced the formation of his committee here. Assisting him with home office sales will be Charles Moss and Jack Pegler.

Co-chairmen for the New York campaign will be Joe Vogel, Loew's; Harry Goldberg, Warners; George Dembow, National Screen Service; John Farmer, RKO; John O'Connor, Universal; Abe Schneider and Floyd Weber, Columbia; Harold Buckley, United Artists; Joe Hornstein, equipment companies; Robert Savini, independent companies and exchanges; John Titus, Republic, and George Borthwick, Hays Office.

Kinzler Named Counsel For Loan Trade Relations

Morris Kinzler, account executive of the Kayton-Spiero Advertising Agency, has been named advertising counsellor for the trade relations division of the Fourth War Loan Committee of the motion picture industry, it was announced here yesterday by Charles P. Skouras, national chairman.

Kayton-Spiero is 20th Century-Fox's advertising counsel, and Kinzler's appointment was arranged by Hal Horne, 20th-Fox advertising-publicity director.

Hollander, Herzoff Will Aid Cook County Drive

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—William Hollander and Archie Herzoff of Balaban and Katz will act as advisers in this area on all tie-ups between theatres and the local civilians' War Finance Committee for the 4th War Loan Drive.

The committee, which has as its goal the raising of Cook County's quota of $251,959,800, includes William McCormick Blair, Ralph H. Burke, Philip R. Clarke, Max Epstein, Charles Y. Freeman, Maurice H. Needham, Patrick F. Sullivan and Mrs. Walter B. Wolf.

Industry War Loan Quarters at WAC Office

B. V. Sturdivant, national campaign director, and Seymour Peiser, national publicity director for the Fourth War Loan Committee of the film industry, arrived from California yesterday to prepare for the opening of drive headquarters at the offices of the War Activities Committee. Charles P. Skouras, national chairman; Rick Ricketson, vice-chairman, and A. J. Krappman, assistant campaign director, are expected here tomorrow.

Review

"Standing Room Only"

(Paramount)

THE title of this latest Paramount romantic comedy starring Fred MacMurray and Paulette Goddard—"Standing Room Only"—should bring a warm glow of recollections of past hits to many. The booking of this film should prove no exception.

Darrell Ware and Karl Tunberg, who wrote the screen play from a story by Al Martin, have looked with bemused gaze on the housing and servant shortage in the somewhat fantastic city of Washington and have come up with an engrossing comedy that should keep the customers interested and amused.

MacMurray, a rising young business man, in Washington to secure a war contract for a toy factory he represents, takes a job as butler in Roland Young's palatial home while his secretary, Miss Goddard, is hired as a cook. He is forced to this expedient by the lack of housing. MacMurray fails in several attempts to see Clarence Kolb, the Government official, who can sign the contract, and this necessitates staying on at Young's house until Kolb hires the "couple" in service for his own house. Their bungling of the job of beautifying Mrs. Kolb's hair gets them ejected from the house and they return to Young's house. Meanwhile, his boss and a competitor for the contract have both arrived in the Capital and the chase to corner Kolb reaches a climax. A bit of deft manoeuvring seals the contract and helps seal their love.

MacMurray delivers his usual clean-cut performance and is ably abetted by Miss Goddard as the secretary who amazes and appalls him by her alternate ingenuity and denseness. Young plays the part of a hen-pecked husband to perfection, while Anne Revere as his military-minded wife is sufficiently formidable. Edward Arnold, as the toy tycoon, doubles as a butler with much neatness; Porter Hall, Hillary Brooks and Isobel Randolph, round out capable support. Sidney Lanfield directed, while Paul Jones was associate producer.

Running time, 83 mins. "G."* Released in block No. 3.

CHARLES RYWECK

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Coe Speaking Today To Cleveland Group

PALM BEACH, Fla., Jan. 3.—Charles Francis Coe, executive vice-president of the MPPDA, will address the Four Arts Society here at four p.m. tomorrow on "A New World Challenges the Screen." He will be introduced by John H. Perry, president of the Western Newspaper Union, to an audience composed of leaders in the local fields of films, business, finance, education, religion and creative arts. They will come from every state in the union and several foreign countries.

Coe is also scheduled to speak in Cleveland on Jan. 10; Cincinnati, Jan. 12; Chicago, Jan. 14, and Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 17.

Ernest H. Cooper Receives Knighthood

TORONTO, Jan 3. — King George has conferred knighthood on Ernest Herbert Cooper, now residing in London, for meritorious war service. Sir Ernest is a brother of Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the Canadian M. P. Distributors Association, and former commander of the Canadian Buffs Battalion with which the new knight served in France in the last war as lieutenant.

Sentencing of Zevin Put off to Jan. 24

Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard yesterday postponed until Jan. 24 sentencing of Isadore Zevin, former bookkeeper for George E. Browne, convicted ex-president of the IATSE, on perjury charges. Zevin pleaded guilty to an indictment alleging he lied before the special Federal grand jury investigating racketeering within the motion picture industry.

Judge Goddard also postponed until Jan. 24 the trial of Harry Hochstein, former Chicago politician, similarly accused.

It is believed the reason for the postponement of Zevin's sentence—he faces a possible 65 years' imprisonment—is that he, as Browne's bookkeeper, is the one person who knows all about the disposal of $1,500,000 collected from IATSE members. It is also thought that Zevin will not be sentenced until the mail-fraud case being prepared for trial by special Federal Prosecutor Boris Kostelanetz is disposed of.

Appeal Not Filed

The expected move by defense attorneys to obtain bail for six Chicago Capone gangsters pending appeal of their recent conviction in the $1,000,000 film extortion case, has failed to materialize before the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The six, each sentenced to 10 years imprisoment and fined $10,000, were free in bail of $100,000 each during the 11 weeks' trial until Dec. 31, when Federal Judge John Bright committed them to jail without bail.

Attorneys for Louis Kaufman, former business agent of Local 244, Motion Picture Operators Union, of Newark, who was convicted with the Chicago gangsters, are preparing his appeal from the conviction and sentence of seven years' imprisonment and a fine of $10,000. Kaufman was the only one of the defendants to win freedom pending appeal, Judge Bright fixing his bail at $25,000.

Sea Bees to See 'Fighting Seabees'

Premieres of Republic's "The Fighting Sea Bees" have been arranged, with cooperation of the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy Department, for Jan. 14 in all Sea Bee camps in the United States.

Simultaneous premiere showings will be held in all theatres in Camps Endicott and Thomas, Davisville, R. I.; Camp Lee Stephenson, Quoddy Village, Me.; Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.; Camp Hollyday, Gulfport, Miss.; Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, Calif., and Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif.

William J. Smith Dies

CLEVELAND, Jan. 3.—William J. Smith, manager of the Ridge Theatre and former manager of the Terminal Theatre, died here recently. The veteran owner and manager is survived by a son, Thomas, and a daughter, Alice.

Griffis to Hold Meetings

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3.—Stanton Griffis, head of the film division of the OWI, will meet studio heads at Perino's Wednesday to discuss future Government shorts made by OWI cleared through WAC.

Personal Mention

(Other Personals on Page 2)

CHARLES HOWARD COLD-IRON of the Dayvue Theatre, Dayton, Ky., will leave for the Navy today—an inductee, leaving behind seven children, ranging in age from two to seven.

•

M. FRANKLIN, who recently joined the National Film Board of Canada sales staff, has been transferred temporarily to St. John, N. B., as exhibitor sales contact in the Maritime Provinces.

•

TED ROUTSON, manager of the Hippodrome, Baltimore, has left the Sinai Hospital there where he was a patient for several months following a heart attack.

•

J. M. FRANKLIN, president of Franklin and Herschorn Theatres, St. John, N. B., will spend the winter at Miami Beach.

•

JACK SOGG, M-G-M Cleveland branch manager, returned yesterday to his headquarters after a stay in New York.

•

H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations executive, left last night for Washington. He is expected back tomorrow.

•

I. J. HOFFMAN, Warner's theatre zone manager from New Haven, was a recent Hartford visitor.

•

JACQUES SHELLMAN is the new publicity chief for the Hicks circuit of theatres in Baltimore.

MGM's Auditors' and Bookers' Meet Opens

M-G-M's annual meeting of auditors, bookers, student auditors and bookers started yesterday at the Astor Hotel with Charles K. Stern, assistant treasurer, and Alan F. Cummings, in charge of exchange operations, conducting the morning session and Edward Urschel handling in the afternoon. Principal topic was the simplification of branch operations and the elimination of unnecessary detail in time of war, particularly in view of the current shortage of manpower.

Harold J. Cleary of Loew's Theatre department will today conduct discussions on operations of auditors and bookers with theatres. Charles Fogel, assistant to J. S. MacLeod, in charge of exchange maintenance, is attending the sessions. Also attending are Parke D. Agnew, John J. Ash, F. W. N. Beckett, Oliver Broughton, Thomas F. Grady, William Marsh, Arthur Sterling, Arthur Sklar, Charles Bell, Carl Gentzel, Albert Golden, William Gillilan, Bennett Goldstein, Mrs. Anna L. Berger, Dorothy Donaldson, Roberta Elston, Jeanne Harris, and Henrietta Klein. James Eastwood, branch auditor for Regal Films, was ill yesterday and did not attend the opening meeting. The sessions will continue until Friday.

Rathvon Reveals Details of RKO Pension Plan

(Continued from page 1)

termination of his employment with the corporation having gone to work for a competitor.

The plan, according to Rathvon, embodies insurance features as well as pension or retirement benefits. Under the plan, if an employe dies before he becomes eligible for retirement benefits, his survivors will have insurance protection equal to a year's salary, but not to exceed $20,000. Although the plan will be administered by trustees designated by RKO, the corporation intends to apply for, and pay the premiums on, a group insurance contract on the life of every member of the plan in order to provide death benefits. The beneficiary of a member who dies after retirement will receive $1,000.

Minimum of $60 Monthly

Rathvon explained that the minimum monthly payment any employe covered by the plan can receive upon attaining retirement age will be an amount which, added to Federal Social Security payments, will provide an income of $60 a month as long as the employe lives.

"Computation of the amount of benefits after retirement," Rathvon said, "will be based on length of service with a credit for future and past services worked out on a percentage basis." Upon reaching 65, an employe will receive a yearly pension equivalent to approximately one per cent of his average annual salary for each year of service, thus giving an employe with 30 years of service an amount equal to about 30 per cent of his average annual compensation.

Another highlight of the plan as explained by Rathvon, is the granting of an option to employes upon reaching 60, to designate the method by which they desire to receive their monthly payments. Four option plans are provided.

Employes reaching 65 will be expected to retire, Rathvon disclosed, but they may, by agreement, be permitted to continue working. Employes permitted to continue working beyond the retirement age will receive their monthly pension payments in addition to regular salary.

As previously disclosed, the plan covers all regular RKO and subsidiary company employes between 30 and 64 if they have already completed three years of service as soon as such service is completed. New employes will likewise be included if between 30 and 60. Employes in the U. S. armed forces are included with full credit for the time spent in the armed forces, if they return to RKO. There will be no contributions by employes to the cost of the plan.

Employes who do not come under the benefits of the plan include production talent—producers, directors, writers, actors and actresses—seasonal and part-time employes who work less than five months a year or less than 20 hours a week, and corporation directors who are not officers of RKO or affiliated companies.

WE to Pay Cash for Employee Ideas

Recognizing "the importance of obtaining every possible idea that might result in increased war production," Western Electric has amended its long-standing employe suggestion system to provide cash awards ranging from $5 to $1,000.

Awards are to be made for adopted suggestions on any phase of operations where the suggestion will result in measurable savings. The award will be 10 per cent of the savings in material and labor estimated to result during the first year's application of the suggestion.

"A minimum $5 award will be made for adopted suggestions for which savings cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but outstanding contributions in this class will be granted higher awards," says the company.

Para. Sets 16 Air Promotions for Week

Paramount has lined up 16 national radio promotions for this week to start off the new year with a continuation of the heavy volume of radio publicity which was featured in December when the networks carried 63 promotions for Paramount, Robert M. Gillham, advertising and publicity director, reports.

Scheduled to make guest appearances are Paulette Goddard, Ginger Rogers, Sonny Tufts, Dick Powell and others.

Goldberg Back with A New Exchange

CINCINNATI, Jan. 1.—Lee Goldberg, who disposed of his PRC franchise a few years ago because of ill health, will reenter the industry this month when he opens an independent exchange under the name of Popular Pictures with headquarters in the Film Building on Central Parkway.

Joseph Names Kallis Ad Art Director

Maurice Kallis was appointed Saturday to the post of art director of the Universal studio advertising department by John Joseph, director of advertising and publicity. Kallis was with Publix Theatres at the home office, and later was made art director for Paramount Pictures, working through the Lord and Thomas and Buchanan ad agencies.

For the past year he headed Kallis Art Service in New York, specializing in the creation of motion picture ads for trade papers.

Sees Time Ripe for M-G-M British Films

(Continued from page 1)

plans" for the future of M-G-M productions filmed overseas. One of the most important features to be discussed, he said, will be facilities for film production. M-G-M now occupies leased studio accommodation at Denham, England, but postwar plans call for permanent outright M-G-M quarters.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 3

FOLLOWING meetings today on arrangements with the Hollywood Victory Committee for personalities participation in the 4th War Loan Drive in war bombardier and radio shows, Charles Skouras, Rick Ricketson and A. Krappman, will plane to New York tomorrow, moving subsequently to Boston and Dallas for area meetings, then returning to New York.

•

Due to holiday weekend shutdowns, studios started only three pictures last week, while completing nine, to bring the production level to a six-months' low with 37 features shooting. But announcement of production intentions indicate an upsurge which will erase the present dip in about two weeks.

•

William Bendix is seriously ill with pneumonia. The "Greenwich Village" company at 20th-Fox is shooting around him. The probability also is Jules Levey faces postponement in launching "The Hairy Ape" in which Bendix will star for United Artists' release.

•

On request of Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson, Hollywood Victory Committee is providing stars for labor rallies in Kansas City, Los Angeles, designed to recruit workers for war plants and expects to send a contingent to Detroit later.

•

Alan Ladd reports back to his draft board for a physical tomorrow. He received a medical discharge from the Air Corps three months ago due to a stomach ailment.

•

Edward Small will follow "Up in Mabel's Room" with "Notorious Nancy Grey," a musical. Dennis O'Keefe is the sole lead thus far set.

•

Walter Long, 20th Century-Fox director, has had his option renewed. His last for the company was "Coney Island."

•

George E. Morris has joined Walter Lantz here as business manager-comptroller. He was formerly secretary-treasurer for Walt Disney for the past 14 years.

•

Screen Writers Guild will elect two new vice-presidents at a special election here tonight, under a constitutional amendment.

•

Benedict Bogeaus and Jerry Dale, his publicity chief, are back from New York.

•

Bob Moak, Republic publicist, is critically ill with pneumonia.

•

Julien Duvivier is en route to New York.

Peter Steele Passes

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3.—Peter Steele, assistant superintendent at the Warner laboratory here for the past 18 years, died at his home today of a heart ailment. Funeral will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery Friday.



THEY NEED US!

It does a fellow's heart good to see the pledges come pouring in for the 1944 MARCH OF DIMES DRIVE January 24th to 30th. Let's not be afraid to be proud. This is an industry of swell gents! Exhibitors have plenty to do—there's a 4th War Loan Drive on in January too. But kids are something else. The pitiful sight of these helpless children is something that no film man can resist. Just a little help from you means a chance in life for them. And American audiences are quick to open up their hearts and purses to fight Infantile Paralysis. How they'll respond to the beautiful trailer Greer Garson has made! Any pledges still to come? Let's get going. The excellent campaign book is in the mails to you. Make it more in '44 because they need us more than ever now!

WLB Rules Dues Checkoff Legal

Chicago, Jan. 3.—The War Labor Board has handed Illinois employers a legal opinion stating that the WLB has the right and the power to order a checkoff of union dues by employers. Further, the opinion stated. Illinois employers can legally withhold wages to pay union dues.

Engel New England UA Publicity Head

BOSTON, Jan. 3.—Phil Engel has been named New England publicity representative of United Artists and will assume his new duties at once under the supervision of James Win, district manager for Buffalo, Boston and New Haven, which territories also will be covered by Engel.

Engel recently resigned after 13 years as Eastern publicity representative with Warner Brothers. He will leave Tuesday for New York to consult with Paul Lazarus, director of publicity and exploitaton for United Artists.

March 1 Seen Date for Rise in Taxes

(*Continued from page* 1)

desire for speed has evaporated and Congress now is likely to pay more attention to details. This, it is felt, will afford an opportunity for full discussion of the admission tax when the bill comes up in the Senate where, if the committee suggestion of a rate of one cent on each five as against the House rate of one cent on each 10 is strongly supported, the Senate conferees will have adequate backing for insisting that the House accept the lower levy.

Film Coverage of Invasion Planned

(*Continued from page* 1)

branch of the Office of War Information.

Hoyt said he expected this procedure to be adopted on the basis of experience in the South Pacific, which showed the necessity for coordinating news and picture coverage into the general scheme of the campaign. This plan was followed out at Tarawa, he said, resulting in the best service the public has received in any campaign.

Odeon Adds Seven Canadian Theatres

(*Continued from page* 1)

and Beardmore, Ont. The combined capacity of the seven houses is more than 3,500. Previous additions in British Columbia were the Rio, Ladysmith, and Capperton, New Westminster.

Miss Napp to Vanguard

Marcella Napp, for the past two-and-a-half years in charge of the New York film department of the William Morris Agency, has joined Vanguard Films as a member of the staff of Daniel T. O'Shea, president. Miss Napp was formerly associated with M-G-M as an aide to E. J. Mannix.

Reviews

"Riders of the Deadline"

(*United Artists*)

IN somewhat the same vein and pattern as some 50 other Hopalong Cassidys, Harry Sherman has produced "Riders of the Deadline" for the action customers. William Boyd as the straight-shooting Hoppy is the drawing card, and Andy Clyde, Jimmy Rogers, Richard Crane and Frances Woodward give him ample support as he goes through his paces of a Texas ranger out to get a band of smugglers.

An element of suspense finds its way into the film when Boyd, suspected of being "in" with the crooks, apparently turns outlaw; but, in his own good time, he proves his association with the smugglers was to achieve proof of their guilt and, of course, he captures them. "Riders of the Deadline" is keyed to a high pitch throughout and is acted well; it is an above-average Western. Lesley Selander directed from a screenplay by Bennett Cohen, based on characters created by Clarence Mumford.

Running time, 70 mins. Release date, Dec. 3. "G."*

HELEN MCNAMARA

"Raiders of the Border"

(*Monogram*)

Hollywood, Jan. 3

NEVADA and Sandy, the U. S. Marshal team, ride again in this latest of the Johnny Mack Brown-Raymond Hatton series produced by Scott R. Dunlap. The picture has punch, due to some real riding, plus action, drama and the usual Western plot without the relief usually provided by Hatton comedy touches.

Nevada and Sandy discover the murder of a freighter working for a girl trading-post operator. Sandy takes the driver's place, while Nevada goes to work to uncover those responsible for rustling along the border. The girl's sweetheart, a young rancher, mistrusts Nevada, but finds his own foreman leagued with the rustlers, only to be wounded by him. Navada captures the foreman and he and Sandy trap the rest of the gang. Happiness appears ahead for the girl and her rancher sweetheart as Nevada and Sandy ride off to new adventures.

Running time, 53 minutes. "G."* Release date, Jan. 1.

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Record Grosses Reported By All Broadway Houses

(*Continued from page* 1)

201,593 paid admissions reported. There were 30,000 paid admissions on New Year's Day, another record.

Enjoying the biggest New Year's day business in its history and rolling up a gross of $81,500 on the first four days of the third week, Radio City Music Hall featuring "Madame Curie" and a holiday stage show, is headed for $121,000 to give the theatre the best week's gross since the picture started its run. The theatre registered a gross of $132,000 on the Christmas to New Year's Eve stretch to set an all-time gross record. The picture will start its fourth week on Thursday.

Establishing a four-day record of $61,000 on its second week with "A Guy Named Joe" and a "Hollywood in person" stage show headed by Kathryn Grayson, Lou Holtz and Richard Himber's orchestra, the Capitol will gross between $85,000 and $90,000 this week. The bill holds for a third. "Riding High" and a stage show headed by Tommy Dorsey and his band will do $100,000 at the Paramount, giving the theatre a better second week than the first. The same combination holds for a third week.

The Strand with "Destination Tokyo" and a stage show headed by Charlie Barnet and his band also set a new all-time three-day record of $40,000 over the weekend and is headed for a house record of $75,000 on the week. The combination will hold over.

"His Butler's Sister" at the Criterion is giving the theatre its biggest week's business in history with $45,000 estimated for the first week. The opening day's business last Wednesday was $7,500. The picture will hold for a second week. "The North Star" will gross $26,000 and $16,000 at the Palace and New Victoria Theatres respectively on its eighth week. "Government Girl" will start at the Palace on Thursday with "The North Star" set to continue at the New Victoria.

The third week for "Desert Song" at the Hollywood is headed for $35,000 and the picture will hold a fourth. The sixth week of "Cry Havoc" at the Astor will hit $18,500 giving the theatre its second best week with the picture which holds for a seventh and final week. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" at the Rivoli is estimated at $37,000 on the 12th week of the continuous run.

"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" at the Globe Theatre is headed for $18,000 on its second week and will hold for a third. The initial week's take was $29,000. Second week of "Ghost Ship" at the Rialto is estimated at $10,000 with "Spider Woman" set to start at that theatre Friday.

Circuit Heads Meet On 'Dimes' Today

ATLANTA, Jan. 3.—A five-state conference of theatre owners and officials of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis will be held in Atlanta tomorrow morning to launch the industry's "March of Dimes" drive in Georgia, Florida, Alabama and the Carolinas. Committee chairmen of the five states, with the national foundation chairmen, will outline to several hundred theatre owners and film exchange executives the importance of the 1944 drive, Jan. 24-30.

J. H. Thompson of Hawkinsville and Hugh G. Martin of Columbus, co-chairmen for Georgia, will preside at the meeting, which will also be attended by campaign leaders from New York, including Harry Brandt, Oscar A. Doob, E. L. Alperson, Arthur Mayer and Dr. John L. Lavan of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

State Chairmen

State chairmen at the meeting will include R. M. Kennedy, for Alabama; M. C. Talley, Florida; Rovy F. Branon, for North and South Carolina. Other theatremen who will attend include Robert Wilby, O. C. Lam, R. E. Martin, Nat Williams, William K. Jenkins, Mrs. Lewis Bach, Frank Miller, Fred Weis, M. G. Lee, M. F. Brice, Bill Carr, Fred Jack, John Kirby, Bob Ingram, Ralph McCoy, Harry Graham, Dave Prince, C. E. Kessnich and Paul Wilson.

Some 600 theatres in the five-state area reported $43,000 March of Dimes collections in the 1943 drive and the slogan this year is "More in '44!" The over-all industry drive in behalf of the fight against infantile paralysis aims nationally to exceed its last year's contribution of $2,116,539.

Lawrence Dispute at 20th-Fox Cleared Up

(*Continued from page* 1)

provided for a substantial sum paid Lawrence.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3.—William B. Jaffe arrives from New York Tuesday in connection with legal matters bearing on Sam Wood's producing deal with Columbia.

He expects to remain here two weeks on this and several other important production deals.

Warners Home Office Workers Get Raises

(*Continued from page* 1)

maximum and will therefore receive no increase. Approval of 31 job classifications was secured from the WLB on the application of the company and the Motion Picture Office Employees Union, Local 23169, AFL, which represents over 600 Warner home office employees, and the company. The company is understood to be granting the same increases to non-union help.

Theatre Charter Issued

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—A charter has been issued to Harris and Selwyn Theatres, Inc., to negotiate with the Dickey Estate for the purchase of the Harris and Selwyn theatres. Incorporators are Emil Meier, M. Driscoll and R. Perelstruebruk.

Long Live the Free French Underground

Parents here of Lt. Charles Bronner, formerly chief of staff of the Roxy Theatre, have been mourning his loss since the official notification, last October, of his loss in action in Germany after the bombardier had been shot down in a plane raid on Nazi-land.

Yesterday they received a cable from the young lieutenant, from England. Seems he was fortunate enough to steal through Germany and into France, and passed the Nazis there. Lucky contact with the friendly Free French got him a plane ride back to his base in England.

Vive La Resistance Francaise Libre.

Hitchcock to Start Propaganda Film

LONDON, Jan. 3. — Alfred Hitchcock's first production since his return to England will get under way today at Welwyn Studios. It will be a two-reel French propaganda picture.

Screen unions here acrimoniously attacked Hitchcock following comments attributed to him recently in the *Express* on the subject of the release of British actors from the Army for purposes of film making. The retorts referred to Hitchcock's presence in Hollywood during the London "blitz" and reminded him that some of his own cameramen have been killed in service.

Hitchock later stated that the *Express* article misquoted him.

Ordinary Camera For Color Films

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3.—The monopack type film, tested for color exteriors in M-G-M's "Lassie Come Home" and Movietone News, "A Volcano Is Born," will be made available for both color interiors and exteriors during 1944 and 1945, Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, president and general manager of Technicolor, disclosed.

By means of this film any ordinary black and white type of studio camera can film Technicolor originals for processing in the Technicolor plant and for subsequent print making by the regular Technicolor process. It will probably not, however, be offered to the industry extensively until the post war.

Irving Berlin Honored

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 3.—The *American Hebrew Magazine* has awarded to Irving Berlin its 1943 medal for the promotion of better understanding between Christians and Jews. The magazine cited Berlin's "tremendous theatrical contributions to the morale of America." The composer is now abroad with his production of "This Is the Army."

Maguire to Filmack

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—Neil Maguire, who has been producing and directing shorts in Hollywood for the past ten years, has been appointed production manager of the Filmack Trailer Co. here. A former Milmack employe, he has been more recently with the Advance Trailer and National Screen.

Reviews

"Cowboy in the Clouds"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, Jan. 3

CHARLES STARRETT takes to the air in this latest of the Western series produced for Columbia by Jack Fier with Benjamin Kline directing. Although the plot deals with exactly what the title implies, the picture has Western punch, drama, some entertaining song numbers and comedy.

Starrett joins the Civilian Air Patrol and stages a series of benefit shows to provide publicity, planes and funds for the outfit to operate. He's opposed by a rugged cattleman, father of Julie Duncan, who is a pilot in CAP against her father's wishes. In an effort to halt the CAP activities, a hireling kills the cattleman's ranch foreman and plants his gun so the blame will be placed on Starrett. The hireling hides in the girl's plane, planning to force her to let him down in a place safe from possible pursuit, but she has to make a forced landing because of motor trouble. The two are stranded in a mountainous region with a forest fire sweeping toward them when she gets a radio call through to Starrett for help.

Dub Taylor provides the comedy, with Jimmy Wakeley and his Saddle Pals and the Three Jesters getting across the other entertainment values.

Running time, 54 minutes. "G."* Release date, Dec. 28.

"California Joe"

(*Republic*)

Hollywood, Jan. 3

DON (Red) Barry and his comedian pal, Wally Vernon, are seen at their best in this one, produced by Eddy White with Spencer Bennett directing to get the utmost in action, drama and comedy from a more than usually solid Western plot.

Barry, a lieutenant in the Union Army, is detached on a special mission to save California for the Union. Accompanied by his pals, Vernon and Carey Frost, he stakes a mining claim near a telegraph relay station in an effort to discover a leak in the telegraph messages. The regular operator, a loyal Unionist and father of Twinkle Watts, is slain, but Barry unravels the mystery after a gunfight with the relief operator planted by a group planning to seize California for their own "Empire of the Pacific." He convinces Helen Talbot, whose brother is one of the plotters, of the duplicity of men she thought were working for the South.

In a fast gun battle, Frost is shot, Helen saves Barry's life and the ex-governor of the state and the traitorous Southern Army officer, are thwarted. Barry sends orders to put secret "Plan D" in effect, placing all Union officers on guard.

Running time, 55 minutes. "G."* Release date, Dec. 23.

JACK CARTWRIGHT

"Cattle Stampede"

(*PRC*)

THERE is much in "Cattle Stampede" that is good boxoffice, especially for neighborhood houses: Buster Crabbe, as the hard-fighting, fast-shooting Billy the Kid; "Fuzzy" St. John, providing the comedy and lots of action and excitement. These all help to overshadow flaws in production; as Westerns go, "Cattle Stampede" rates well.

The story opens with Crabbe and St. John fleeing Arizona where there is a price on Crabbe's head. On the way across the border they encounter Hansel Werner, who informs them they are riding into an ambush. He tells them, too, of a range war across the border, engineered by Charles King, who aims to control all of the territory. The Kid and "Fuzzy" decide to clear up that situation, so they ride to Werner's father ranch and hire on as cowhands to get in on a big cattle drive. The herd is stampeded en route and Crabbe and his pal form a trail patrol, eventually trapping King and his gang and saving the day for the ranchers.

Producer Sigmund Neufeld and director Sam Newfield wrapped this one up neatly. It's satisfactory entertainment; the action fans will surely like it. Joe O'Donnell wrote the original screenplay. Crabbe and St. John turn in good performances and Frances Gladwin is satisfactory as the lady in the case. King, Ed Cassidy and Werner are good supporters.

Running time, 58 mins. "G."* HELEN MCNAMARA

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Schine Buys Hotel

J. Myer Schine and theatre circuits associates of Gloversville, N. Y., have purchased the Roney Plaza Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., for $1,601,000.

Re-issue 'Snow White'

The Walt Disney office reports that Disney's original "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" will be re-issued around mid-February.

ColumbiaExpanding In South America

Columbia will open an exchange in Montevideo, Uruguay, early this year reports Joseph A. McConville, vice-president of the company, who has returned from a Latin and South American tour. Uruguay is now being serviced out of the office in Buenos Aires.

McConville stated that the censorship problem in many South American countries is mounting. He said Columbia, for example, is having trouble getting approval to distribute "Appointment in Berlin" in some countries, especially Argentina. Films with anti-Axis themes are receiving strict attention from authorities. "The Invaders" is another Columbia picture which met strong censorship trouble.

Theatre construction is on the upgrade in some of the countries McConville visited, particularly Panama, Chile, Brazil and Argentina, with equipment coming from the United States in most instances. Personnel problems are acute, he stated, with more and more people leaving non-essential work, including films, to take jobs in war industries or to go into armed forces. Wages and the standard of living in the majority of South American countries have increased considerably since the war started, partly through higher salaries paid by American firms engaged in mining, construction and war industries.

Theatre business throughout Latin and South America has increased considerably since the war started, especially in nations where armed forces and war workers are abundant, such as in Panama and Trinidad. He sees a continued rise in bookings of Hollywood pictures and grosses in most of the countries he visited.

Honor S. Seletsky At Dinner Jan. 10

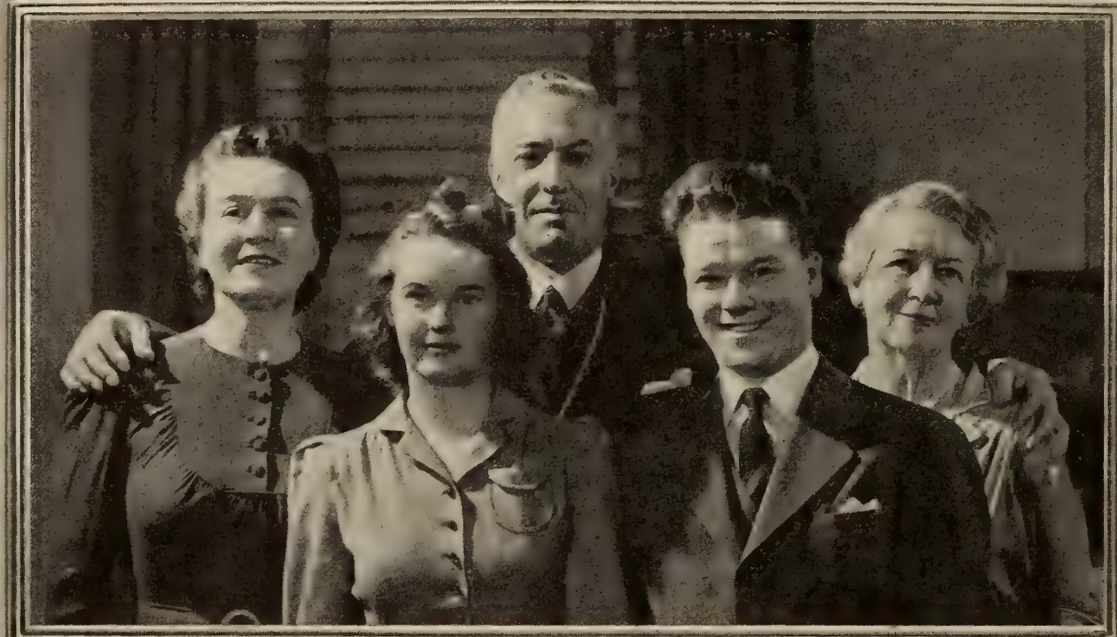
NEW HAVEN, Jan. 3.—A farewell testimonial dinner will be given Samuel Seletsky, Republic manager recently promoted to manager of the New York branch, on Monday evening, Jan. 10, at the Hotel Taft. Barney Pitkin, RKO manager, will be chairman; Harry F. Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, will act as toastmaster, and Ben Simon, 20th-Fox manager, will be treasurer. Seletsky has been in New Haven for the past five years.

Jerry Lewis, formerly at the Philadelphia Republic exchange succeeds Seletsky here and will be welcomed at the dinner.

Radio Employes' Wage Scale Higher

The Federal Communications Commission has reported that in 10 networks and 815 standard broadcast stations 24,515 persons were employed full-time and 4,862 part-time during 1943. Total weekly compensation paid to full-time employes amounted to $1,366,687, an average of $55.75 a week for each employe.

These figures indicate an increase of 6.6 per cent over the 1942 totals. Average for full-time workers, excluding executives, was $49.50, an increase of 7.3 per cent over last year's average.



Can You hold them?

4TH WAR LOAN JANUARY MARCH OF DIMES

One thing the war did . . . It brought a lot of old customers back . . . who had stopped coming to your theatre . . . The family jaloppy was gasless . . . or it needed new tires . . . or was dead for the duration . . . So former golf addicts switched to films . . . Workers with big bankrolls started doing likewise . . . Fathers who formerly delegated ma and the kids to do all the picture-going . . . for the family . . . took their place at the head of the delegation . . . The war started it . . . Now what are you going to do about it? . . . Hang on to it? . . . Fight for it? . . . Or throw it away? . . . We have the stuff to help you hang on to it . . . You put it on your billboards . . . in their hands . . . in their EARS . . . under their doorways . . . in their EYES . . . about every place they can look . . . They can't get away from it . . . and *you* . . . We can PROVE it.

NATIONAL Screen SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 3 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1944 TEN CENTS

Rank Desires To Cooperate With Industry

Seeks to Release 15-20 Films Here Yearly

By MILT LIVINGSTON

"J. Arthur Rank, London, is extremely anxious that British and American film interests should work in cooperation," Barrington Gain, one of Rank's financial advisers, and director of General Film Distributors, Ltd., stated in an interview here yesterday. Gain arrived here to see if something can be done to obtain better distribution for Rank's films in the United States.

"Rank wants to do more than just work with American film interests," Gain added. "He wants to set up an organization with American film interests to arrange for the distribution of films in occupied countries as they are freed." In this Rank will presumably handle films made by inde-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Kelly Reported in Talks with Rank

LONDON, Jan. 4.—Arthur W. Kelly, vice-president in charge of foreign affairs for United Artists, is reported conferring here secretly with J. Arthur Rank in a reputed endeavor to outbid 20th Century-Fox in a permanent association with Rank and his various companies.

The financial market today again reflected tremors of big inside film deals. On the strength of cabled American orders, all stable film issues were stimulated. In the general rise, Odeon Theatres led with an all-time high.

U.A. Meet Off for At Least a Month

The annual meeting of United Artists stockholders, which was interrupted in December when Edward Raftery, president, returned to New York because of the illness of his wife, will not be held for at least another month. No date has been set and a 30-day notice to reconvene is required.

Among other matters pending is the possible sale of Sir Alexander Korda's one-fifth stock interest in the company.

Exhibitors Attack Theatre Interests Of Film Salesmen

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4.—In a resolution condemning the "practice whereby persons employed by distributors or producers are permitted to acquire directly or indirectly an interest in any theatre enterprise or in profits or income thereof, or whereby any such person is given or sold any such interest," the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners today demanded that "producers and distributors require from all their employees, at least once every 90 days, a declaration under oath that he or she has no interest directly or indirectly in any motion picture theatrical enterprise served by such distribution

(*Continued on page 6*)

Bard's Files Trust Suit vs. 20th-Fox

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4.—Charging violations of the anti-trust laws, Colorado Corp., operating Bard's Adams Theatre, today filed a suit in Federal Court here seeking an enjoining order and $10,000 attorney fees, from 20th Century-Fox Film Co., Crenshaw Amusement Co. and Saul Silverman.

A spokesman for the plaintiff alleges discrimination in price of first-run films for Bard's, which is claimed

(*Continued on page 6*)

Nazis Say Berlin Theatres Are Shut

British Broadcasting Co., London, says the "Deutsche Allegemeine Zeitung," German newspaper, reports that "nearly all of Berlin's theatres and music halls have been closed." There was no disclosure of the number of theatres and film buildings destroyed by the 100-odd massive bombings of the German capital by thousands of Allied planes, but all will be flattened when plans of the High Command to level all of the city are completed.

Rodgers Calls Two Exhibitor Meetings

William F. Rodgers, vice-president in charge of distribution for Loew's, in a change of plans is eliminating a number of exhibitor rallies which he originally planned to hold in various cities. He will address theatremen in the Philadelphia area on Jan. 15 and address a luncheon meeting of exhibitors in Washington on Jan. 18, thereafter continuing South for a vacation in Miami. In March Rodgers plans a trip to the Coast studios.

M-G-M will hold its Washington luncheon at the Statler Hotel. Among Government and industry figures invited are: Frank C. Walker, Postmaster General; Lowell Mellett, as-

(*Continued on page 6*)

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"

[Paramount]

IN Hollywood they will tell you good pictures are hard to make. At the drop of a vowel, they will also tell you good comedies come harder. If you accept this, it follows an outstanding comedy must repose at the very top of any studio enterprise.

Paramount held a trade show yesterday at the Normandie theatre. Sloppy weather probably held down attendance, but the usual goodly crowd was there to rock and sway with gales of laughter over "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek." This reviewer rocked and swayed with all the others, for what he saw was something so much better than merely a good comedy that he places it immediately in the outstanding class. And defies any assaults to the contrary.

Out of the nimble and imaginative mind of Preston Sturges who wrote the story which he also directed and produced, is one of the funniest pictures in a long span of viewing and reviewing. "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" is Sturges, born and bred. It carries that distinctive hallmark which has stamped itself on so many of his earlier pictures. Its treatment is broad. Frequently, it slops over into the slapstick and then

(*Continued on page 6*)

RevisedDecree Ready; Draft To Tom Clark

UnrestrictedCancellation Embodied, Report

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The latest draft of the distributors' consent decree proposals is expected to reach the Department of Justice within the next few days by mail, and will be discussed by U. S. Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark with Joseph Hazen, Warner vice president and general counsel, representing majors, some time next week, it was said today at the Department.

Company presidents and their legal advisors held two meetings yesterday in New York in an effort to reduce to final form a revised con-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Arthur Mayer Set For War Dep't Job

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Arthur L. Mayer, owner of the Rialto, New York, whose theatre interests extend to other properties, and who, in addition, has been one of the mainstays of the War Activities Committee, was reportedly slated today for a job with the War Department. Army officials refused to disclose the nature of the assignment, explaining that it had not been officially acted on as yet. It is under-



Arthur Mayer

(*Continued on page 6*)

Committees Named For Moss Luncheon

Leaders of the amusement-film industry yesterday completed the set-up of committees appointed in connection with the luncheon in honor of New York License Commissioner Paul Moss at the Hotel Astor on Wednesday, Jan. 12.

David Weinstock and Leo Brecher, co-chairmen of the theatre owners and

(*Continued on page 6*)

Personal Mention

SAM DEMBOW, Paramount theatre executive, observed a birthday yesterday. Admitting to 49, confidential research during his birthday party at "Club 21" here revealed he was 54. The party was given him, in annual custom, by his brother, GEORGE, general sales manager of National Screen. Present were NEIL F. AGNEW, vice-president in charge of Paramount distribution; M. H. (Deac) AYLESWORTH, former president of NBC and RKO; JOSEPH BERNARD, general manager of Warners; TOM J. CONNORS, in charge of world-wide sales for 20th Century-Fox; NED E. DEPINET, president of RKO Radio; JOHN E. FLYNN, Western sales manager of M-G-M; LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, vice-president of Paramount in charge of theatre operations; CARL LESERMAN, general sales manager of United Artists; JAMES MULVEY, vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc.; ROBERT J. O'DONNELL, general manager of Interstate Circuit, Texas; HERMAN ROBBINS, president of National Screen; WILLIAM F. RODGERS, vice-president in charge of M-G-M sales; MAJOR LESLIE E. THOMPSON, RKO; JOSEPH R. VOGEL, out-of-New York theatre operator for Loew's; MARTIN QUIGLEY and RED KANN.

Everyone around the festive table delivered slight speeches, but when the guest of honor sought to reply a non-planned state of utter confusion barred him from returning the many compliments turned in his direction. Finale of the function is indicated by the closing remark of one of those present: "It's time for me to return to the office and make a few bad decisions."

•

S/SGT. AL LONGO, former Loew Boston publicity-advertising man, has been assigned by the U. S. Marines to the San Diego base where he will open a branch of the *Leatherneck Magazine*.

•

HARRY MICHALSON, RKO Radio short subject sales manager, left yesterday on a trip of company branches. He will return to New York about Jan. 24.

•

LT. EDWARD H. O'CONNOR, former M-G-M manager in Cuba and now with the American Embassy in Havana, is in Boston to attend the golden wedding of his parents.

•

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, Loew-M-G-M president, and his family are due to return from Miami on Jan. 11.

•

MARJORIE MORROW, head of Warner's talent bureau in the East, will leave today for Boston.

•

A. J. O'KEEFE, Western division manager of Universal, left New York for Chicago last night.

•

MARY PICKFORD is expected in New York from the Coast on Jan. 10.

(*More Personals on Page* 4)

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

New York, Jan. 4

DISTRIBUTORS, immunized more and more against the inroads of the war, are pretty calloused by the manpower situation by this time. The end for them is not yet in sight, however. On the basis of another fighting year in Europe, the needs of the military establishments are expected to develop an even tighter condition in the field.

If the forecaster would be interested in knowing the direction of the blitz, he would do well to settle upon bookers and salesmen.

■

One who is qualified as to his facts points out the average worker in this industry is younger than his average compatriot in other fields. Like the grocery store for example. It follows as a natural result, of course, that replacements for enlisted men and draftees came early to motion pictures. It also made sales managers more ingenious, propelled toward the circumstance by the need for prompt, remedial action. This is the obvious explanation of how women came to be employed with greater frequency in distribution.

And, of course, it is the reason why women play increasingly important roles in exhibition.

■

No one can go soothsayer and be sure he knows what he is soothsaying. But action looking toward the future is another matter. For instance, it is a current and future matter at 20th Century-Fox to re-plate conditions to meet the times. Without much fuss, the sales department there has been developing what is known in the shop as a "Commando" worker. She is usually a woman filling a specific post, but trained to step into an assortment of other posts around an exchange in case—.

The hope and the anticipation are that, comes the further need, sufficiently experienced help will be on hand to keep the business on necessary keel. They're confident it will work over on Tenth Avenue.

Unlike other Commandos, the 20th-Fox are well-cushioned, do not carry sidearms.

■

Meanwhile and as so often happens, tight situations produce their lighter moments. One sales manager, whose wit is one of his charms to those who know him, was discussing the accelerating problem of bookers and salesmen.

"There is nothing we can do about it. On the other hand, I am not too seriously worried. This business has the damnedest habit of pushing through or stumbling through, and it will do so again.

"The salesmen situation leaves me singularly unmoved, however. We've got a few Zombies walking around now, anyway."

■ ■

Soft language sheathes the thorns, but the points are sharp and the intent unmistakable and clear in recommendations made by Bill Rodgers for future workings of WAC's distributor division. He urges a complete changeover in exchange area chairmen because "many of the present chairmen have been on this assigment for more than a year and it is only fair that others in the exchange area take up the work."

In other words, someone else ought to get busy for a change.

■

Even more courteous, yet hitting at the heart of its design, is this:

"A reaffirmation of cooperation from some circuits is needed. In some territories, circuits apparently feel that representation is sufficient as against booking for every theatre which is necessary for effective distribution."

Rodgers is talking about OWI-WAC films. He refers to the men, fortunately and relatively scarce in the whole structure of exhibition, who substitute playing time in all of their theatres for scattered representation in a few. In that way, they figure their pledges are met.

These men are reneging. They know it and so do others.

Reneging on a pledge to cooperate in aiding the war effort!

■ ■

Easy-To-Take Note: "I do not believe there will be any deep or prolonged depression as a consequence of peace. Such dislocation of labor and industry as we have in connection with conversion of factories to peace production and reallocation of labor should not be long sustained." —Floyd B. Odlum.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 4

WESTERN Division of the public information committee in its first meeting under chairman Alex Evelove appointed an executive committee headed by John Joseph, comprising George Brown, Evelove, Perry Lieber, Howard Strickling and Arch Reeve. The committee rejected suggestions for pooling resources to cope with servicemen's requests for pin-up art; likewise an application by a local concern for permission to market pinup kits. The organization pledged complete cooperation in the 4th War Loan Drive in all capacities.

•

Fire in the projection room of the Show Shop Theatre, Glendale, last night killed Albert Dehm, 15, injured three others. Damage was estimated at $6,500.

•

Abe Schneider, A. Montague, Joseph A. McConville, Leo Jaffe and Max Cohn of Columbia, arrived here today for 10 days of studio conferences with Harry Cohn and Jack Cohn, the latter also having recently arrived. They are scheduled to return East Jan. 14.

•

Jack L. Warner, executive vice-president of Warners) will arrive here tomorrow following a month's visit in the East.

•

RKO today bought "Betrayal from the East" concerning Japanese espionage in America; Herman Scholm produces.

•

Screen Writers Guild last night elected Sheridan Gibney second vice-president, James Hilton third.

•

Monogram has bought "Three of a Kind," original comedy. Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz produce.

•

Republic has purchased "Crowded Coffin," an original; Walter Goetz is producing.

O'Donnell, RKO Mgr., Killed in Air Raid

Staff Sgt. James J. O'Donnell, former manager of RKO's 23rd Street Theater, New York, was killed in a recent air raid over Bremen, according to the War Department.

O'Donnell, who was 28, began with the Jefferson Theatre on 14th St. and spent 13 years in the RKO organization.

Barry Now Head of Eagle Productions

Jack Barry has resigned from the presidency of Minoco Productions, Inc., to head Eagle Productions, which will concentrate in the East on films for television. Barry, who for 15 years was a Paramount home office executive, organized Minoco in 1941. It has produced 500 "juke-box" shorts.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign: single copies, 10c.



LONG DISTANCE—HEDDA HOPPER IN HOLLYWOOD PLEASE!

"Thanks for the column rave. You'll be happy to learn that M-G-M's 'A GUY NAMED JOE' is playing at the Capitol, N.Y. to business named TERRIFIC!"

By HEDDA HOPPER

Hollywood, Calif., Dec. 26.—The most ironic event of the week—Metro, our biggest studio, can't find a house in which to show "A Guy Named Joe," so it will be ineligible for the Academy award, which, in my opinion, it would win hands down. Never a dull moment. Teaming of Irene Dunne and Spencer Tracy is by way of being terrific. This is a picture! We've been waiting for. Many of our actors had to go overseas before we realized what a fine performer Ward Bond is. In this, he has many Gable qualities. Van Johnson is going up the ladder so fast that, if he isn't careful, he'll find himself with star rating before New Year's. Vic Fleming has done a magnificent job. Let's not forget Lionel Barrymore, who plays the Boss of Heaven, with a couple of speeches we should memorize. Nor Jimmy Gleason. I don't as a rule find myself in a lather over a picture. But "A Guy Named Joe" got me.

P.S. The reason is that M-G-M's "MADAME CURIE" is playing in 4 Los Angeles Theatres, and it's a leading contender for the Academy Award.

M-G-M presents Spencer Tracy • Irene Dunne in Victor Fleming's Production of "A Guy Named Joe" with Van Johnson • Ward Bond • James Gleason • Lionel Barrymore • Barry Nelson • Esther Williams • Screen Play by Dalton Trumbo • Adaptation by Frederick Hazlitt Brennan • Directed by Victor Fleming • Produced by Everett Riskin

"Our Two Big Jobs in January: Fourth War Loan and March of Dimes!"

Personal Mention

(Other Personals on Page 2)

S. BARRET McCORMICK, RKO director of publicity and advertising, and TERRY TURNER, exploitation director, are en route to the Coast to confer with CHARLES W. KOERNER, head of production.

•

MISS JULIA KELLY, secretary to WILL H. HAYS, is recovering from an attack of flu that has kept her away from the MPPDA office for two weeks.

•

NED E. DEPINET, president of RKO Radio, will leave for Boston at the end of the week. Thereafter, he will fly to Dallas and continue on to the Coast.

•

ARTHUR DE BRA, assistant to CHARLES FRANCIS COE, MPPDA vice-president, is laid up with a foot infection.

•

PHIL REISMAN, RKO vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, expects to leave for London today or tomorrow.

•

CHARLES FRANCIS COE, executive vice-president of the MPPDA, will return Saturday from Florida.

•

NORMAN TAUROG, director, arrived in New York over the weekend and will stay for about three weeks.

Para. Sales Meeting Here On Jan. 21-22

Paramount district sales managers and field exploitation men will hold a two-day meeting at the Hotel Pierre here Jan. 21-22 to discuss sales and promotion plans on "Lady in the Dark" and other 1944 product, Neil Agnew, general sales manager, announced here yesterday.

Attending will be district managers William Erbb, M. S. Kusell, M. R. Clark, E. W. Sweigert, John Kirby, Allen Usher, R. C. LiBeau, Hugh Braly, Del Goodman, J. J. Donohue and Gordon Lightstone. Also attending will be exploitation men Arnold Van Leer, Ed J. Wall, Sid Mesibov, J. M. Joice, Charles C. Perry, William Brooker, James Levine, E. G. Fitzgibbon, M. D. Cohn, James Lundy, Ralph Ravenscroft, W. C. Lewellen, Allan S. Glenn, Vernon Gray and Win Barron.

From the home office there will be: Agnew, Charles Reagan, George Smith, Hugh Owen, G. B. J. Frawley, R. M. Gillham, Alec Moss, Al Wilkie and Stanley Shuford.

Joe Stern Acquires Poster Exchange

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 4.—Joe Stern, owner of the Majestic exchange here and the Mohawk Theatre, St. Paul, has bought the Independent Poster Exchange here from Donald Guttman and Ted Mann. Kelly Evidon will continue as manager of the poster unit.

Motion Picture Daily Cited



for

Gallantry in Giving

AWARDED BY THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL WAR FUND TO:

Motion Picture Daily

FOR THE GALLANT GIVING OF YOUR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORT OF OUR OWN ARMED FORCES AND FIGHTING ALLIES THROUGH THE NEW YORK WAR FUND FOR 1943.

Winthrop W. Aldrich
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

H. W. Campbell
NEW YORK TREASURER

Emil Schram
NEW YORK CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN, NEW YORK COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DIVISION

We Matched Their Gallantry with Our Giving

Para. to Award $1,045 For 'Hail' Promotions

Judging for the six best campaigns on Paramount's "So Proudly We Hail," for which the winning theatre managers will be awarded a total of $1,045 in War Bonds, will take place Friday at Paramount's home office.

Judges will be Paramount distribution department executives Neil Agnew, Charles M. Reagan, Hugh Owen and George Smith; R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director; Leonard Goldenson, Sam Dembow and Leon Netter, theatre department executives; circuit advertising-publicity heads Harry Mandel, RKO; Harry Goldberg, Warner Bros., and Oscar Doob, Loew's; and editors of trade publications.

The competition was supervised by Alec Moss, exploitation manager, who will also serve as a judge.

"Song" Opens Jan. 26

"The Song of Bernadette" will open its New York run at the Rivoli on Jan. 26 and will be preceded by an invitation performance the night before.

Nizer Cites Films to 'Invade' German Mind

Louis Nizer, film attorney and authority on international law, speaking here last night over Mutual's "American Forum of the Air," about post-war treatment of conquered Germany, referred to the screen as a medium that can be effectively used in the re-education of Germans.

Nizer said, "This can be done under the supervision of an International University, composed of greatest minds in the world. If we give the same attention to it and utilize all the resources at our command, the church, screen, labor unions, radio, stage and literature, then our 'invasion' of the German mind might succeed."

Mrs. Whiteside Passes

Mrs. Walker Whiteside, who as Leila Wolston appeared with her late husband as an actress years ago, died yesterday at her home, Hastings-on-the-Hudson, after a brief illness. Surviving is a daughter, Mrs. Rosamond W. Pettibone, former singer. Funeral services will be held at the residence tomorrow morning.

Golden Makes Plea To Retain 10% Tax

John Golden, producer, in a plea to Congressmen asks that the Federal tax on theatre tickets be held to the present 10 per cent rate because "it comes out of the pockets of people who need relaxation from the worry of these days."

Stressing the fact that keeping all theatres going is an essential war effort, Golden's petition says, "In the centre of the most violent assaults abroad playhouses have kept open and audiences have turned to them to show their contempt of the enemy, thus allaying fear, preventing panic and stimulating courage." Golden quotes President Roosevelt as saying, "There has never been a time when the theatre was called upon to play a greater part in maintaining public morale and fostering patriotic spirit."

5,500,000 Free Tickets

Golden tells how theatres in New York City alone have already given away to servicemen over 5,500,000 free tickets. And he estimates that by the time Irving Berlin's "This Is the Army" contributions to Army Relief are all counted they will total $10,000,000.

Senator Robert Wagner, who opposes increasing the tax, replied to Golden that he expects the support of many Senators when the bill, which has been passed by the Finance Committee, reaches the floor.

'Snow White' Reissue Promotion Plans Set

For the reissue of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" RKO plans a midwest promotion campaign that includes having governors of Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and Indiana designate Feb. 24 to Mar. 2 as "Snow White Week," and in each of more than 50 cities will stage contests to select a "Miss Snow White." Deems Taylor will judge the finals. The "champion" will be crowned at a Variety Club ceremony in the Netherlands Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Feb. 23. She will get a trip to Hollywood next summer, preceded by personal appearances.

Responsible for the campaign are S. Barret McCormick, ad director; Antoinette Spitzer of Walt Disney Productions, and Roger Baker, Terry Turner, Harry Reiner and Bob Hickey.

Gauld Succeeds Falk As Superior Manager

TORONTO, Jan. 4.—Henry Falk has announced his resignation as supervising manager of the Superior Operating Co., which has eight theatres in the Montreal district. His successor is Gordon Gauld, former district manager of suburban theatres in Winnipeg for Famous Players Canadian.

Falk has returned to Toronto to reside, but stated he is not ready to reveal details of his new project, also declining to discuss developments in the presentation of trade grievances to the Federal Government for the National Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada of which he is chairman.

Review

"The Lodger"

(20th Century-Fox)

DIPPING into the mysterious regions of the psychological, 20th Century-Fox comes through with a blood-curdler in "The Lodger," drawn from the book by Marie Belloc Lowndes. The attraction is guilty of a dissipated and somewhat diffused interest, which is a way of observing it does not always hold together as well as it might. However, and as it stands, it is an interesting job, tailor-made for those who go for gore.

The locale is London, mostly Whitechapel, and the period is late Victorian. London is excited and horrified by a series of throat slashings which fit into an overall pattern later known widely as the Jack the Ripper murders. The treatment by Barre Lyndon makes no endeavor to convert the straight unfoldment of the gruesome tale into a mystery beyond initial doubts cast around the identity of the murderer. Before the film gets very far, it is apparent to the audience that the villain of the piece is Laird Cregar, crazed doctor seeking to avenge the death of his brother at the alleged hands of designing actresses.

Thus, all of Cregar's victims are women identified with the theatre. All of them have their throats slashed from here to there except Merle Oberon who escapes unsavory death in the nick of time and by dramatic detail conveniently arranged to spare the heroine's life. The story handling reflects no great prowess on the part of Scotland Yard and the London police force, but probably audiences at large won't mind particularly. The closing sequence in a British music hall is strongly reminiscent of the climactic conclusion of "Phantom of the Opera."

One of the distinguishing features of the attraction is striking and dramatic black-and-white photography for which Lucien Ballard is responsible and for which he deserves high praise. His camera work and angles create a brooding atmosphere well in keeping with the type of story.

Histrionically, Cregar leads the small cast of principals. His performance is in fitting and eerie shadings well fitted to the type of subdued maniac he is called upon to portray. Sir Cedric Hardwicke does a gem-like job, which is normal expectancy from him, as the uncle. Miss Oberon is satisfactory, looks extremely well before the camera and departs from her usual by doing two dancing and singing numbers. They do not rate the applause the audiences in the picture accredit to them, but they'll do. George Sanders, as the police inspector, is standard in his role. Sara Allgood is the fourth principal, and good. Robert Bassler produced and John Brahm directed.

Running time, 84 minutes. "A"*. No release date set. RED KANN

*"A" indicates adult classification.

Mills Is Named to Mercey OWI Post

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. — Taylor Mills of Minneapolis, currently administrative analyst in the U. S. Budget Bureau here, yesterday was named associate chief of the motion picture bureau of the domestic branch of the Office of War Information.

Mills, who has been connected with the Budget Bureau since March, 1942, has served also as a special consultant on motion pictures for that agency and has conducted numerous studies of Government films. He was formerly connected with Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn, Inc., as radio director and account executive in the Minneapolis office of that ad agency. He will take over his new job Jan. 17, succeeding Arch A. Mercey, who joins the Coast Guard.

Goldstein Promoted

Leon Goldstein, WMCA news and features director, has been appointed second vice-president of the station by Nathan Straus, president.

Other officers of WMCA appointed since Straus assumed control from Edward J. Noble, new owner of the Blue Network, are Herman M. Stein, secretary-treasurer, and Charles Stark, first vice-president and general manager.

Hastings Hurt

CINCINNATI, Jan. 3.—William Hastings, manager of the RKO Grand Theatre, sustained a double fracture of the left arm and possible other injuries when the automobile in which he was riding with Cliff Redman, of the RKO suburban Paramount, driver, and Eddie Rienseberger, manager of Keith's, skidded from the road and overturned near Williamstown, Ky., as the party was returning home from a hunting trip. The other escaped injury.

MGM Shows 'Rationing'

"Rationing," with Wallace Beery, Marjorie Main, Donald Meek and Dorothy Morris, will be tradeshown by M-G-M at exchanges throughout the country on Jan. 24 and in New York on the day following.

New Westinghouse Film

Produced by Paramount for Westinghouse radio stations, "On the Air," a 28-minute film history of broadcasting, will have its premiere at a Radio Executives Club luncheon at the Hotel Shelton here on Thursday.

Patton Promoted

George L. Carrington, president of Altec Service Corp., has promoted Lane J. Patton from New York supervisor to branch manager of the New York district.

M-G-M TRADE SHOW!

NEW DATE FOR

SPENCER TRACY

IRENE DUNNE

in

VICTOR FLEMING'S PRODUCTION

"A GUY NAMED JOE"

•

NEW YORK • NEW JERSEY TERRITORY ONLY

FRIDAY, JAN. 7th

M-G-M SCREENING ROOM

630 NINTH AVE., N. Y. C.

(This trade show was previously scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 18th.)

•

NOW IN ITS

3rd Record-Breaking Week at the Capitol Theatre, N. Y.

Committees Named For Moss Luncheon

(*Continued from page* 1)

allied fields committee, said that the luncheon will be one of the high spots of the industry's efforts on behalf of the 1943 campaign of the merged New York and Brooklyn Federations of Jewish Charities.

Other co-chairmen are David Bernstein and Major Albert Warner; campaign manager is Nathan B. Spingold; vice-chairmen are: Barney Balaban, Nate J. Blumberg, Jack Cohn, Malcolm Kingsberg, William Klein and Herman Robbins.

Committees follow: Exhibitors: Harry Brandt, William Brandt, Max Cohen, Si Fabian, Louis Frisch, Sam Goodman, Jack Hattem, Arthur Mayer, Charles Moses, H. Rachmil, Walter Reade, Sam Rinzler, Edward Rugoff, R. Sanders, Fred Schwartz, Edward Seider, Ben Sherman, Spyros Skouras, Joe Springer, Samuel Strausberg.

Motion picture accessories: Benjamin Moss, chairman; Walter Barber, Jules Catsiff, M. J. Fessler, George Feinberg, Emil Friedlander, William Freedman, Emanuel Frisch, Miss I. Garretson, Joe Hornstein, Joe Katsh, A. L. Kirwin, Stanley Kolbert, Fred Lakeman, Jerome Loeb, Milton Maier, Harry Mandel, Harry Nadel, Joe Pear, Eugene Picker, Arthur Rapf, Harold Rinzler, Sam Rosen, Edward Sieder, Max Seligman, Charles Sonin, Monroe Stein, James Stroock, and Max Wolff.

Legitimate theatres: Lawrence Langner, chairan: Marcus Heiman, Ben Boyar, Howard Dietz, Sidney Fleisher, Sam Forrest, Harry Goetz, John Golden, Lee Shubert.

Stars in 'Dimes' Opening in N. Y.

The March of Dimes 1944 campaign will get under way in New York on Jan. 18 with the unveiling in Times Square by Mayor LaGuardia of a 12-foot glass "wishing well" to collect dimes.

New York publicity chairman Eddie Dowden is now planning a Broadway parade featuring 25 open cars to be occupied by stars of screen and stage.

O'Dell & Sheetz New Ross Vice-Presidents

Ross Federal Service has appointed two new vice-presidents for two new posts, S. W. Sheetz of the executive offices here, and William F. O'Dell of Chicago. Sheetz, who joined the firm in Detroit in 1934, will take charge of the Eastern and Western divisions; O'Dell, with Ross since 1938, will head the Midwest Division.

Theatre Management Record and Annual Tax Register

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QUIGLEY BOOKSHOP
Rockefeller Center, New York (20)

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"

(*Continued from page* 1)

it climbs out. In its approach to comedy and laughs, the handling is characteristically Sturges at his peak which, of course, means quite a peak.

ONCE more he dips into the fantastic and the bizarre. His story of a war-time wedding keyed to humor and belly roars does not hold up under the scrutiny of logic and reason, but somehow or other it fails to make any difference if the wild melee of things and stuff bears little resemblance to the prosaic and the orderly. For the prosaic and the orderly, Sturges is not the director, the writer or the producer. You've got to get three other fellows.

What he does is to take notice of weddings generating in martial atmosphere, put Betty Hutton through one and have Eddie Bracken, her dumb and adoring suitor, bail her out through a series of situations which are mad and slaphappy. It seems she got herself tight, married a departing soldier as a lark, can't remember clearly who he was but does remember enough of that momentous night to realize she gave a phoney name because that, too, was part of the fun.

Fun ends when she discovers she is to have a baby with no known husband in sight. That's where the halting, sputtering and stuttering Bracken enters. They get married, finally and almost. The girl gives birth to sextuplets, the governor fixes things for the glory of his administration and his commonwealth. Canada, on behalf of the Dionnes, casts a doubt. Mussolini resigns. Hitler demands a recount. Bracken is cleared of his law-breaking by the politically-conscious governor, world fame is at everyone's door. All live happily ever after.

IT'S screwy, but it's fun. Miss Hutton does an excellent job as the befuddled girl. Bracken is equally as excellent as the more befuddled youngster whose instincts are sound and true. William Demarest, as Miss Hutton's father, is frequently on the panic fringe along with the others. So it goes up and down and across the line.

In other words, this is a lot of wordage to get over the idea that "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" is a bearcat of a comedy and an undisputed wow at the box-office.

Running time, 99 minutes. "G." Release in Paramount's third block.

RED KANN

*"G" denotes general classification.

WPB Releases Black Plate for Film Cans

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The War Production Board today authorized the use of black plate for the production of motion picture film cans to the extent of the 1940 consumption for that purpose.

Film was among 22 items which could not be packed in metal containers last year which are provided for in the 1944 allocation of container plate through an increase of 350,000 tons over the amount used last year.

Distributor Employe Theatre Interests Hit

(*Continued from page* 1)

office, and in the event of disclosure or discovery of any such interest, such employee shall be discharged."

Exhibitors have complained for many years over film salesmen, branch managers or film executives holding interests in theatres, which houses allegedly have benefitted by preferential treatment in product and prices through the film salesmen's or film executives' distribution connections.

Bide Dudley Passes

Bide Dudley, author and dramatic critic, and father of Doris Dudley, the actress, died yesterday afternoon at the Polyclinic Hospital here. He was 66 years old.

Bard's Files Trust Suit vs. 20th-Fox

(*Continued from page* 1)

to have been a first-run house for the past 15 years. The defendants are charged with coercing Bard's into relinquishing first-run rights to Crenshaw.

Colorado seeks an injunction to compel 20th-Fox to lease them first-run films, and an order enjoining the defendants from further violations of the anti-trust laws.

Pepper and Socolow In Law Partnership

Benjamin Pepper, film attorney, associated with O'Brien, Driscoll and Raftery here for 17 years, has resigned to form a law partnership with A. Walter Socolow, radio attorney, to be known as Socolow and Pepper, with offices at 580 Fifth Ave.

Socolow and Pepper, in addition to general practice, will specialize in both radio and films.

Arthur Mayer Set For War Dep't Job

(*Continued from page* 1)

stood that Mayer will act in a technical capacity under plans now being perfected. He will not be the Army's adviser on motion pictures, as rumored in the industry, but no details of the new set-up were proffered by Department officials.

Canteen in Plea to SAG on Warner Film

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 4.—As a result of Warners' abandonment of the production of "Hollywood Canteen," the Hollywood Stage Door Canteen stands to lose an estimated $250,000 plus a percentage of profits from the picture, and Screen Actors' Guild executive secretary Jack Dales has been asked to petition the board to hear a plea to rescind its action barring player participation in the film without full compensation. This move followed a meeting of the board of directors of the Hollywood Canteen last night, called to discuss application of SAG rules to players in the Warner film.

Will Submit Request

Dales expects to submit the request to the SAG board at its next meeting. The Canteen directorate, which includes representatives of all guilds, unions, and crafts, appeared virtually unanimous in the opinion that SAG should revise its ruling, according to several speakers who addressed the group.

Y. Frank Freeman, the only producer present, who emphasized he was speaking only for Paramount, said his studio would not authorize its contract players to appear in the Warner film on any basis except a straight commercial deal the same as applies to all pictures. Dales reiterated the SAG stand announced recently. Warners was represented only by letter, which repeated the company's previously stated position.

Rodgers and Flynn Address MGM Meet

William F. Rodgers, general sales manager of M-G-M, and John Flynn, Western sales manager, spoke yesterday to traveling and student auditors and bookers at the second of a five-day annual meeting at the Astor Hotel. Both dealt with current conditions in the field and aims of M-G-M in stressing the theme of "the friendly company."

Today, many M-G-M home office department heads will give brief talks to delegates. Among those who will speak are Harold J. Cleary, Harold Postman, E. W. Aaron, Joel Bezahler, Charles Deesen, Leonard Hirsch, Paul Richrath, William Brenner, Rose Klein, Irving Helfont, Ira Martin, Arthur Lacks, C. K. Ster, Alan F. Cummings, William Gleicher, Jay Gove, Frank McRoy, Charles J. Sonin, J. S. MacLeod, William D. Kelly, Alex J. Nelson, Matt Eisenstadt, Matilda Green, Beatrice Lustig and Charles Quick.

Rodgers Calls Two Exhibitor Meetings

(*Continued from page* 1)

sistant to President Roosevelt; Stanton Griffis, chief of the motion picture bureau of the OWI; Abram F. Myers, Allied general counsel; William S. Crockett, president of the MPTO of Virginia; Frank Hornig, president of the MPTO of Maryland; A. Julian Brylawski, MPTOA executive of Washington, and Abe Tolkins, president of the ITOA of the District of Columbia.

Skouras Talks with Radio Men on 4th Loan Drive Plans

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 4.—Charles P. Skouras, national theatre chairman of the 4th War Loan, met here today with leaders of the radio industry and radio agencies to formulate plans for the appearance of radio stars and programs in cities throughout the country during the drive.

Radio is being called upon to provide shows for San Francisco, Portland, Salt Lake City, Kansas City, Seattle, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, New Orleans and Denver. The Hollywood Victory Committee will provide film personalities for 12 other cities.

Skouras Postpones Departure

Shifting their plans following a phone conference with Ted Gamble in Washington, Skouras, Rick Ricketson and A. J. Krappmann cancelled departure plans and itinerary in favor of remaining here until Sunday, when they will fly to Dallas for the meeting Monday, thence to Boston for Jan. 13. The group meets tonight with Hollywood Victory Committee on details of bond battalion and bombardier aspects of the campaign.

Present at the meeting were Sidney Strotz, NBC; Danny Danger, J. Walter Thompson, Don W. Thornburgh, CBS; Don Gilman and Leo Tyson, Blue; Fox Case, CBS; Van Newkirk, Mutual, and John Guedel, Big-Time Show Producers; Dick Mack, Warwick & Legler; Cal Kuhl, Milton Biow Agency; Nate Tufts, Ruthrauff & Ryan; Cecil Underwood, Needham; Hal Hackett, Music Corp. of America; Martin Gosch, Wm. Estey Co.; Bob Caldwell, Jack Smalley, BBD&O; Al Kaye, Benton & Bowles; Carlton Alsop, Sherman-Marquette; Walter Bunker and Dave Elton, Young & Rubicam.

Also present was Lt. Eddie Albert U. S. Navy, just back from Tarawa

Variety, WAC Cohosts to Dallas Exhibitors

DALLAS, Jan. 4.—The film industry War Activities Committee of Texas and the Texas Variety Club will be cohosts at a luncheon for Texas distributors and exhibitors Jan. 10 at the Adolphus Hotel here, honoring WAC, 4th War Loan and March of Dimes officials.

Officials Attending

Among those attending will be Charles P. Skouras, F. H. Ricketson, Jr., B. V. Sturdivant, Sam Shain, Ned Depinet, Si Fabian, and A. J. Krappman, representing WAC. Harry Brandt, Oscar Doob, Eddie Alperson and Dr. Lavan will represent the Dimes committee.

The list of guests includes: Henry Reeve, president and member of the board of directors of Texas Theatre Owners; Col. H. A. Cole, president and board of directors member of Allied Theatre Owners; Nathan Adams, Texas state chairman, War Finance Committee; R. L. Thornton and Ed Shelton, co-chairmen of Dallas County; Fred Florence and C. F. O'Donnell, Dallas region co-chairmen, and Judson James, state executive manager of the WFC.

Also included in the guest list are George Tucker, state chairman, 4th War Loan for New Mexico; Arthur Lehman, state chairman, Mississippi; M. S. McCord, state chairman, Arkansas; Tony Sudekum, state chairman, Tennessee, and E. V. Richards, state chairman, Louisiana. This guest list will be augmented by local civic leaders.

Rank Seeking to Release 15-20 Films Here Yearly

(*Continued from page* 1)

pendent British producers as well as his own.

Rank, Britain's leading film producer-distributor-exhibitor, hopes to arrange distribution deals with one or more American companies to distribute 15 to 20 of his British films yearly.

Gain stated that it is unlikely that Rank would attempt to enter American production. "But there is a possibility that he will buy into an American company to secure distribution," Gain said.

Has Full Authority

Gain revealed that he has full authority to conclude deals with American film companies for Rank, but that he is unauthorized to sell individual pictures. Gain indicated that the chief purpose of his mission to the United States "is to help formulate a general release scheme for Rank films with an American distributor."

"Rank also has in mind an exchange of talent with the American industry," Gain said. "He also intends to seek advice on what will suit the American market and engage consultants to advise on dialogue and American idioms," Gain added.

Gain said that he has had conferences with Universal executives and others since his arrival. Rank has an interest in "U."

On the question of whether Rank would be interested in purchasing the 49 per cent interest in Gaumont British owned jointly by Loew's and 20th Century-Fox, Gain stated that Rank would not "at the price they want." He indicated that he intends to confer with 20th Century-Fox and Loew executives while he is here since he "understands that they are not content with the G-B setup." Rank holds 51 per cent of the voting shares in Metropolis and Bradford Trust, which control Gaumont British.

Gain explained that "Gaumont British has just begun to pay ordinary dividends since Rank took over," pointing out that a six per cent dividend was paid in Nov., 1942, and a second dividend in Nov., 1943.

Denies Odeon Sought

Gain denied that Rank is negotiating for United Artists' interest in Odeon Theatres, but admitted that theatres throughout the world are being considered as possible "show-windows" for Rank's films. "Rank has no concrete plans as yet for Canada or South America," Gain stated. But he does intend to survey the film markets in these places, Gain said.

Independent Producers, Ltd., one of the Rank companies, is about to start production on Gabriel Pascal's filming of "Cleopatra," starring Vivien Leigh and Claude Raines, a Technicolor production budgeted at approximately $2,000,000, with world-wide distribution in mind, Gain said.

Gain expects to be in New York for another two or three weeks. He will then go to Hollywood for three weeks.

New Haven Mayor Lauds Industry

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 4.—At a meeting of Connecticut exhibitors here today, gathered to discuss 4th War Loan campaign plans, Mayor John Murphy said, "It will be recorded that no group has made a greater contribution toward winning the war than the motion picture industry."

Pledging his fullest cooperation in the coming campaign, he predicted that the Connecticut group would outdo themselves to help meet the Treasury's goal.

Guests of Honor

At the head table were Mayor Murphy, Harry Shaw, Herman Levy, William Folsey, chairman of the local WAC, S. H. Fabian, Ed Schreiber, Col. R. J. Reeves, Major R. J. Shrine, and Capt. C. J. Nelson of the Army Air Corps who pledged military support for the industry's participation in the campaign.

Exhibitors present were: J. Reed, W. Murphy, T. Sherman, Gus Bauman, Al Winnick, J. Fishman, H. Germaine, M. Jacobson, J. Brown, B. Ruff, M. Katz, J. San Artino, H. Anzell, B. Pitkin, H. Oechson, S. Selitsky, Freda Swirsky, William O'Connell, S. Kletter, C. Goe, W. Birndaun, J. Lewis, M. Saunders, R. Russell, R. Carney, H. Rose, H. Levine, J. Darby, A. Hamilton, A. Donian, T. O'Toole, J. Schwartz, H. Needles, T. Rich, B. E. Hoffman, I. J. Hoffman, H. Isenstadt, J. Bornstein, J. Miklos, J. Sansone, D. Finn, J. Hesse, Cy Barrett, L. Ginsburg, W. Sharkin, J. Pavone, L. Cohen, G. Landeis, M. Goldstein, M. Shulman, and F. Greenway.

Skouras Will Address N.E. WAC Division

BOSTON, Jan. 4.—Charles Skouras and a group of nationally prominent motion picture men will speak before a mass meeting called by the New England division of the WAC here at the Statler Hotel Jan. 7.

Messages from leaders in the industry and national committee plans for the 4th War Loan Drive will be heard at that time and among those to attend, besides Skouras, will be: F. H. Ricketson, Jr., B. V. Sturdivant, A. J. Krappmann, Ned E. Depinet.

Samuel Pinanski, local chairman, has sent out a letter to all members of the industry urging that they attend. Discussions will cover trailers, campaign material, bond premieres, the "bond for every seat" campaign, the "honored 100," the tour of motion picture stars and all other details.

Harry Browning is head of the public relations committee for the industry in this drive as in the past.

Drive Committee Set For Upper New York

J. Myer Schine, upper New York state chairman for the 4th War Loan Drive, announced yesterday personnel of the committee designated to handle details, and arrangements have been completed to hold three regional meetings this week. The meetings will be held at the Hotel Ten Eyck, Albany, today; at Syracuse tomorrow, at the Hotel Syracuse; and Friday, in Buffalo, at the Hotel Statler.

For greater coverage the area has been split into 28 zones. After attending the regionals the key men will return to their own zones and hold similar meetings.

Allied of N. J. Will Make Plans Monday

Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey will discuss plans for the 4th Bond Drive at their first meeting of the year, Monday, Jan. 10, in the Allied office, Sardi Bldg., New York. Harry H. Lowenstein, president, will preside.

Revised Decree Ready; Draft To Tom Clark

(*Continued from page* 1)

sent decree which, in their opinion, will be acceptable to the Department of Justice. In one session, operating heads of the theatre divisions of the so-called "Big Five" attended. At the other, sales managers were on hand.

It is understood that the distributors probably will agree to unrestricted cancellations governed by average rentals in a general formula resembling the late UMPI program.

Clark, who has just returned from Texas, is tied up this week on a number of other matters under his jurisdiction as head of the criminal division and will be unable to give any attention to film matters for several days. He conferred with Hazen over the telephone yesterday, arranging to have the proposals sent down by mail so that he might study them over the weekend, with Hazen to come to Washington early next week.

Until the new draft has been studied to determine whether it meets the requirements laid down last month, it was said, no decision can be made whether it is in shape for review by exhibitor leaders who have been promised consultation on the document before formal action is taken.

Minnesota Opening Put Off to March 2

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 4.—Reopening of the 4,000-seat Minnesota, first-run house here, originally planned for the holidays, has been postponed until March 2, according to John Friedl, head of Minnesota Amusement Co., which recently obtained a long-term lease on the house in settlement of a suit. The delay has been caused by inability to get clearance on priorities for needed equipment.

While the policy for the house has not been definitely decided, it is expected to run pictures exclusively, leaving stage shows and added attractions to the Orpheum.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Jan. 4

CECIL B. DE MILLE has put Dudley Nichols to script a modern prologue for his "streamlined edition" of "The Sign of the Cross." The prologue will deal with the current battle for the "Eternal City," which President Roosevelt has termed a "Holy Crusade." The theme will be that the issue at stake in Italy today is much the same as it was in the time of Emperor Nero—a conflict between pagan tyranny and the free concepts of civilization. The original stars Claudette Colbert as Nero's empress, Charles Laughton as Nero, Frederic March as the dashing young prefect of Rome, Elissa Landi as Mercia the Christian girl. Producer DeMille plans to add several other name players to the prologue. He hopes to release the re-issue prior to release of his "Story of Dr. Wassell," now in the cutting rooms at Paramount.

•

Al Green has been assigned to direct "Mr. Winkle Goes to War," starring Edward G. Robinson, which Jack Moss is producing at Columbia. . . . Eleanor Powell and David Lichine, Russian ballet artist, are working out a new dance, "Jitterburg-Ballet," for Andrew Stone's "Sensations of 1944" for United Artists release. . . . Leon Fromkess has signed Ferdi Grofe to do the score for his "Minstrel Man," starring Benny Fields and Gerra Young at PRC.

•

Sam Wood is preparing Napoleon's retreat from Moscow in 1812 as the big sequence for his production. "Tatiana," for Columbia release. Camera work will start early in January . . . Pine Thomas have signed Bela Lugosi to spook Jack Haley in "One Body Too Many" for Paramount release . . . Producer Walter Goetz's first pictures for Republic will be "South Sea Quest" and "Port of 40 Thieves."

•

Producer Sid Rogell has assigned Edward Verdier and Irving Phillips to script "Ten Minutes for Love" and Producer Robert Fellows has signed Paul Fix to do the screenplay of "Tall in the Saddle," John Wayne's first at RKO. . . . Vera Hruba Ralston's next at Republic will be "Lady from Lisbon," a story of a dancer mixed in the intrigue of a World War II spy capital, which George Sherman will produce. . . . Universal associate producer Will Cowan has signed Bernard Schubet to do the screenplay of "Jungle Queen."

•

Tay Garnett has a new directorial contract at M-G-M where he recently completed "Cross of Lorraine" and is now busy directing added scenes for "See Here, Private Hargrove," due to Director Wesley Ruggles' absence in London. . . . Jinx Falkenburg and Jeff Donnell, starred in Columbia's "Nine Girls," are touring hospitals to entertain wounded servicemen.

•

Monogram has added two films to its schedule: "Right to Live" and "Youth Gone Wild." . . . Samuel Goldwyn will produce "First Co-ed" concerning co-education at Georgetown University, as a Teresa Wright starrer. . . . RKO has purchased the Xavier Herbert novel, "Capricornia."

Critics' Quotes . . .

"THE SONG OF BERNADETTE" (20th-Fox)

LOWELL E. REDELINGS, *Hollywood Citizen-News*—. . . a moving story, spiritually inspirational . . . with a message of universal appeal. That it will have tremendous success at the box office is unquestioned. That it will be a powerful contender for Academy Award honors is conceded. Jennifer Jones renders a portrayal so emotionally stirring, that she will remain Bernadette for all filmgoers . . . Henry King's sensitive and artistic direction is easily one of the admirable directorial jobs of the year . . .

HARRISON CARROLL, *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*—. . . a picture of rare beauty and strong spiritual appeal . . . handled with reverence and imagination . . . sustains interest to a remarkable degree. One of the prime factors in this is the exalted performance of Jennifer Jones . . . she becomes an important candidate for the Academy award. . . . The direction of Henry King is the most sensitive of his long career. . . . The musical score of Alfred Newman is a rich and moving accompaniment to the theme. . . . This picture . . . is eloquent proof of Hollywood's expanding horizons. . . . Twentieth Century-Fox can take pride. . . .

VIRGINIA WRIGHT, *Los Angeles Daily News*—. . . for firm believers the story . . . is sure to have great spiritual power . . . for those of less certain faith this dramatization . . . will have a strong fascination, absorbing interest and a haunting, unforgettable beauty . . . brought to the screen with a far greater respect to an original than is customary in Hollywood . . . produced by William Perlberg with exquisite taste. The presentation . . . is, in its own way, a miracle of film making. . . . Henry King has done a masterly job. . . . Twentieth Century-Fox has a right to be very proud.

EDWIN SCHALLERT, *Los Angeles Times*—. . . the most moving picture spiritually that has ever been made . . . a creation of supreme beauty, as reverential a tribute . . . as has ever been conceived for the films. . . . The picture is a triumph for Jennifer Jones, and for 20th-Fox. . . . It is possible that this will be the film above all others that will win the Academy conquests. It is for the discerning, and for those who desire inspiration as well as entertainment. . . . Henry King has given masterly direction, and the writing by George Seaton . . . is rich and effective. William Perlberg, as producer, and Alfred Newman, for music, are to be lauded.

LOUELLA PARSONS, *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*—. . . . a motion picture you will want to treasure in your heart and mind. . . . Apart from the spiritual beauty . . . the production is a joy and the tale unfolded one of absorbing interest—even excitement. Henry King gave an inspirational beauty . . . his greatest directorial work. George Seaton did a particularly fine piece of work in the adaptation. There is no doubt that "The Song of Bernadette" will offer bitter competition when the Academy Award is handed out. . . . One of the outstanding performances is given by Charles Bickford. . . .

Legion Rates Four For All-Time Low

The Legion of Decency's current feature rating list is believed to hit a new all-time low, numerically, with only four films classified. Columbia's "Racket Man" was rated Class A-I, for general patronage and Universal's "Gung Ho," M-G-M's "Heavenly Body" and United Artists' "Voice in the Wind" were rated Class A-11, unobjectionable for adults.

Marlas Group Buys

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—The Reconstruction Finance Corp., which controls a bond issue of the Downers Grove Theatre in suburban Chicago, has authorized its sale to the George Marlas group for a reputed $160,000. The house is located in a seven story building occupied also by a hotel. The theatre is at present being run by Lund Theatre Corp., recognized as Balaban and Katz, which has tenancy for six months more.

Hap Ward Dies

Hap Ward, retired variety comedian, died this week of a heart ailment at the age of 76 at his home here. A Requiem Mass will be sung for him tomorrow in St. Malachy's Church, with burial set for Holy Cross Cemetery at Malden, Mass.

Reissuing 'Stagecoach'

United Artists will reissue "Stagecoach," produced by Walter Wanger and originally released during the 1938-39 season.

WPB Halts New Florida Theatre

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Construction of a theatre building at Carrabelle, Fla., by Harry Papadopoulos has been halted by the War Production Board because the project was undertaken in violation of the construction limitation order L-41, it was disclosed here by WPB.

The project was initiated last March without first securing WPB approval at the time. Maximum construction which could be undertaken without formal approval is limited to $200.

Another Ten Best

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Ten best films of 1943, according to the Better Films Council of Chicagoland, which will publish its selection soon, are rated in the following order: "Human Comedy," "So Proudly We Hail," "My Friend Flicka," "Stage Door Canteen," "Casablanca," "Random Harvest," "Coney Island," "Holy Matrimony," "Heaven Can Wait" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

State Aids in Delinquency

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn., Jan. 4.—The Tennessee Department of Public Welfare has assigned an expert child worker to aid local authorities in combating the juvenile delinquency problem in motion picture houses here. Regulations implementing this policy will be issued by the commissioner in the near future.

Short Subject Reviews

'Flicker Flashbacks'

(RKO Pathe)

"Flicker Flashbacks" No. 5 brings back Charlie Chaplin in his old "Police," in which he goes through the antics which helped make him famous, that little number which featured him as a housebreaker and then a repentant sinner. It's good for many laughs. A second sequence, "Lonely Villa," stars Mary Pickford at the tender age of 16. She is shown as the eldest daughter of a happy little family. Robbers and killers come on the scene and Mary and her mommy save the little nest, warding off the scoundrels until Papa arrives. Both flashbacks are good. The former "masterpieces" of artful drama bring reminiscences to the old folks and amuse the young ones. Herman Fuchs' musical score is appropriate. Richard O. Fleischers' script is well done and Ward Wilson's commentary is amusing. Frederic Ullman, Jr., produced. Running time, 9½ mins.

'Unusual Occupations'

(Paramount)

Interesting shots of people engaged in unusual hobbies, including a doll factory at Sao Paolo, Brazil; the training of falcons for war work; a man in Long Beach, Calif., who collects burned-out light bulbs and builds things inside them. The most interesting sequence features the only women's military flying school at Avenger Field, Tex., where members of the WASP's train to become ferry pilots. This film, in Magnacolor, is interesting and informative. Direction is good and the subjects unusual. Running time, 10 mins.

'Aladdin's Lamp'

(20th-Fox)

Another of Paul Terry's "Terrytoons" in Technicolor. This one has to do with a tough "Sergeant Cat" and a meek private who simultaneously dream they are in the mystic Near East. The private outdoes the sergeant in the conquest of three mysterious Oriental maidens. This is entertaining and amusing. The musical background is well arranged. Running time, 7 mins.

'My Tomato'

(M-G-M)

Robert Benchley goes all out for Victory gardening and, at the suggestion of neighbors, plants his tomatoes in different ways. He finally raises one greenish, sickly looking tomato—which a gopher promptly makes off with. This is amusing in parts but gets a little monotonous after a while. "My Tomato" is one of the lesser films in the Benchley series. Running time, 9 mins.

'Tips on Trips'

(M-G-M)

This is a novel and entertaining treatment of a really timely subject. The soldier awaiting shipment to foreign soil asks questions about customs of the country he expects to land in (in this case it's Africa) and Pete Smith's answers are dramatized in most interesting fashion. This is one of the finest Pete Smith specialties in this series. Running time, 9 mins.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 4 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1944 TEN CENTS

All Salesmen In Industry To Aid Drive

Will Carry Supplies of War Loan Display Kits

Salesmen of every film company in every exchange throughout the country will contribute to the industry's participation in the 4th War Loan Drive, Jan. 18 to Feb. 15.

Ned E. Depinet, chairman of the distributors' committee for the drive, announced yesterday that every salesman will carry with him on his theatre tours a supply of National Screen 4th War Loan display kits, for sale to exhibitors. This is being done, Depinet stated, in an effort to provide greater exploitation impact in the sale of bonds and to stimulate "War Bond Premieres" and "Free Movie Days."

Newsreels to Carry Campaign Supplements

All five newsreels will add 125 feet of film on the 4th War Loan Drive to all issues beginning today, it was announced yesterday by B. V. Sturdi-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Steffes Exhibitor Group Seen Stymied

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 5.—Exhibitors in this territory see W. A. Steffes' proposed new exhibitor organization, and his plan to merge it with the two existing groups here, stymied until Steffes returns from a Winter in Florida.

Steffes' plan to organize exhibitors in this area as a move to curb trade problems and complaints is seen as having been thrown into the laps of independent Twin City exhibitors for the time being, with no action expected for a while.

Opposition has developed to the plan and to the cost of membership which was tentatively set at two per cent of an exhibitor's film rentals last year.

$600,000 for 'Tokyo' At 81 Runs in 4½ Days

In 81 engagements, the majority of which started before the general release date, Warner's "Destination Tokyo" has grossed close to $600,000 for an average of four-and-one-half days starting New Year's Eve, reports from the field indicate.

Holdover Houses Will Start 'Dimes' Campaign Earlier

Although the March of Dimes drive is scheduled to start Monday, Jan. 24, for seven days of audience-collections, it developed yesterday that a number of theatres will actually launch their drive on the 20th or 21st.

Many exhibitors have suggested to the industry's "Dimes" executive committee that theatres which hold over their features and start their weeks on Thursday or Friday, should not lose the first week-end crowds on extended-run pictures.

Realizing that the suggestion, if followed, could add many thousands of dollars to the collections, J. R. Vogel, Loew executive, for one is instructing a number of Loew managers to start collections Thursday, Jan. 20.

(*Continued on page 6*)

1943 Ascap Payments More Than $5,000,000

ASCAP royalty payments to be distributed to members for the fourth quarter of 1943 will approximate $1,420,000, largest single quarter payment since 1940.

Yearly estimated royalty total of $5,100,000 for 1943 is higher than last year, is only $500,000 under the peak of 1940. Collections come from film and stage theatres, radio stations, night clubs, dance halls and other public performers of music for profit.

Capra and Roach Promoted by Army

Hollywood's Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Capra has been promoted by the United States Army to a full colonelcy and Major Hal Roach has been elevated to lieutenant-colonel.

Colonel Capra is presently assigned to the Signal Corps Photographic Unit at its Eastern studio headquarters in Astoria, L. I., and makes frequent trips to Hollywood. Lieutenant-Colonel Roach is in Washington.

IBEW Starts Strike Vote Polling Today

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 5.—A strike vote by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers at all studios where electricians work under the studio basic agreement will open here tomorrow under the supervision of National Labor Relations Board Representative Arthur Hailes. The vote will extend through Friday with 500 expected to cast ballots.

Al Speed, IBEW business agent, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY, "When the vote is completed under the Labor Relations Act, the union can adopt strike action any time it is ready."

At the same time other unions under the agreement prepared demands for

(*Continued on page 4*)

Sergeant Hinchley Has a Circuit, But No Theatres

Universalites to Coast on '44-45 Talks

Universal executives will leave the New York home office this week for production and budget conferences at the Coast studios on the 1944-45 program. Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel, will leave today and will be followed tomorrow by J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board. Also making the trip at about the same time will be William Scully, general sales manager, and Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president and export manager.

They will confer with Nate Blumberg, president, and with Clifford Work, head of production. The number of pictures to be released next year has not yet been determined.

Any exhibitor who thinks he's had tough going should consider the "circuit" now being operated in remote and rugged areas "down under" by Sergeant Bert Hinchley of the Australian Army, according to word received here from Sydney.

Sergeant Hinchley's circuit has no theatres, often no roads. His audiences are mostly on the march and must be followed. His circuit includes locations so far in the interior they can be reached only by plane, and other spots where his sound and projection equipment must be dug out of swamps. The problems that tax his ingenuity are many.

In charge of cinema activities of the Army in a northern area, Hinchley is responsible for the operations of seven RCA mobile cinema units from the

(*Continued on page 4*)

Father Draft Hitting Sales Staffs Hard

Branch Mgrs., Bookers And Salesmen Affected

Impetus in the nationwide drafting of fathers is making further really serious inroads in key field sales personnel of most film companies.

All ranks are now affected: branch managers, office managers, salesmen, bookers, auditors and others, and to cope with the situation sales executives are adopting numerous methods, including promoting available personnel, training much new personnel, consolidating sales territories to meet salesmen shortages, and other emergency methods. A few home offices here report that the majority of their key sales people are over the present draft age and they do not anticipate many difficulties for the present.

M-G-M is understood to be considering consolidating sales territories to meet the emergency. It would have

(*Continued on page 6*)

Depinet Decision Due on Air Show

Decision on a contemplated new RKO daily air program over Mutual will be made when Ned E. Depinet, RKO Radio president, arrives on the Coast within the next ten days. Several test records of a proposed show dealing with behind-the-scenes activities during RKO production, are understood to have been made and are awaiting Depinet's auditioning. S. Barret McCormick, company advertising and publicity director, who is heading for the Coast from Denver, and Charles W. Koerner, RKO studio general manager, will join Depinet in conferences on the program.

RKO has taken an option on Mutual for a daytime period tentatively set for 11:45 a.m. (EWT) Monday through Friday for a program which

(*Continued on page 6*)

Rogers to Represent Wanger on 2 Films

Budd Rogers, vice-president and general manager of Alliance Films, will represent Walter Wanger Productions as liaison with Universal in the latter's distribution of "Gung Ho" and "Ladies Courageous."

Personal Mention

J. CHEEVER COWDIN, chairman of the board of Universal Pictures, will leave tomorrow for Coast studio conferences, as scheduled.

•

LT. JOHN W. DERMODY and MRS. DERMODY report the birth of a son at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. LT. DERMODY, formerly with the Comerford circuit, is at Lubbock Field, Texas.

•

SAMUEL D. SCHWARTZ, real estate head for Warner Theatres in Philadelphia, has been appointed executive director of the Philadelphia committee for the March of Dimes drive.

•

ESTHER DIAMOND, secretary to EDGAR MOSS, 20th Century-Fox district manager in Philadelphia, and CORP. FRANK MESMAN, were married in that city.

•

PVT. ARTHUR R. DENIS, formerly with Associated Theatres, Providence, has become engaged to JEAN SMITH. DENIS is now overseas in the Persian Gulf Command.

•

WILL SINGER, manager of the Brandeis Theatre, Omaha, has returned from a three week's holiday in Chicago where he visited his brother, Mort.

•

CHARLES COLLINS and MRS. COLLINS report the birth of a son, the third child, born at Williamsport, Pa., where the father is manager of the Keystone.

•

HERBERT GILLIS, 20th Century-Fox booker in Philadelphia, became the father of a son, DAVID LEE, born last week at Lying-In Hospital.

•

FLOYD BRETZ of the Warner circuit's employment office in Philadelphia, will leave for the Army on Jan. 18.

•

MAE FINLAYSON, Monogram booker in Philadelphia, and LIEUT. WILLIAM EUGENE BANNON, USN, were married there.

•

JACK BLITT, who vacationed to Florida after 10 years with ELMER BENESCH at the Madlin Theatre, Chicago, has returned.

•

CHARLES SEGALL, Philadelphia exhibitor, has left for a Florida vacation.

•

ULRIK F. SMITH, Paramount branch manager in Philadelphia, is observing his 30th year with the company.

•

CHARLES L. CASANAVE is back in New York after spending holidays with his family in Chicago.

•

JOE LEHR of the Comerford home office, Scranton, Pa., and MRS. LEHR announce the birth of a son.

(*More Personals on Page* 4)

'Curie' Opening Set; 'Joe' Date Changed

The premiere of M-G-M's "Madame Curie" has been set for Jan. 20 in Washington and the following cities: Boston, Kansas City, Akron, New Orleans, Richmond, Canton, Harrisburg, Columbus, Houston, St. Louis, Norfolk, Louisville, Dayton, Reading, Syracuse, Providence, Atlanta, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Toledo, Wilmington, Evansville and Rochester. Cleveland and Memphis will see it on Jan. 21 and Albany and Pittsburgh on the 27th.

Tradeshowing of "A Guy Named Joe" in New York and New Jersey will take place tomorrow instead of on Jan. 18 as previously scheduled. Elsewhere this new M-G-M film will be screened Jan. 17 as originally announced.

Thad Barrows Again Heads Projectionists

BOSTON, Jan. 5.—For the 27th term Thad Barrows was elected president of Boston IATSE Local 182. He has been active nationally as well as locally in legislation and other matters affecting the projectionists.

Other officers elected were James F. Burke, veteran business agent of the union; Bernard McGaffigan, vice-president; Joseph Rosen, treasurer, and Albert Moulton, financial secretary. Members of the board of governors are Walter Diehl, Joseph Nuzzolo and Harold Kaitz. Joseph Ritchie was chosen sergeant-at-arms, while for delegate to the international convention Louis Pirovano was elected, together with President Barrows and Burke.

Alberti Manager for Constance Bennett

Jules Alberti has resigned as national director of radio advertising for 20th Century-Fox to become managing director of Constance Bennett Enterprises. He will supervise the star's film, radio and stage activities and will direct her cosmetics corporation. Alberti went to 20th-Fox in 1943 from the Treasury Department in Washington.

After Miss Bennett's tour in the Theatre Guild's "Without Love" closes next week in St. Louis she will come to New York to help launch the 4th War Loan drive and to confer with her new manager.

Sanders Named Head Of M. P. Associates

At the annual election of Motion Picture Associates, held yesterday at the Hotel Astor here, Moe Sanders, vice-president, was elected president for one year, with Jack Ellis, former president, elected first vice-president.

Other officers reelected were M. Kahan, second vice-president; Saul Trauner, treasurer; Charles Penser, financial secretary; M. Fraum, recording secretary, and Harry Furst, sergeant-at-arms.

Paramount Screens "3rd Year at War"

"Our Third Year At War," special Paramount two-reel 'newsreel,' screened yesterday for the New York trade press, is an impressive review of 1943, plus a thoughtful preview of 1944. Hanson W. Baldwin, Pulitzer prize reporter and Blue Network commentator, does the principal narration, emphasizing the picture's theme: Thomas Paine's "These are the times that try men's souls."

Camera highlights of the year are framed by shots of average Americans expressing overconfidence. The earlier analytical features are nicely balanced by Gilbert Martin, who takes over at the end to sound a note of patriotic determination. Charts and maps are as prominent as are the action shots. Running time, 15 minutes.—T. L.

Editors Win 96-56 On 'Battle of Sexes'

Trade paper editors, Terry Ramsaye, *Motion Picture Herald;* Chester Bahn, *Film Daily,* and William G. Formby, *Boxoffice,* opposed Natalie Reid, Denise Hadley and Bernice Sherman, Conover models, who appeared in Universal's "Magazine Model," last night on NBC's "Battle of the Sexes." The men won 96-56.

Prior to the broadcast, the contenders were guests at a dinner given by Universal. Others who attended were Harry Conover, David Alber and Mildred Brown of the Conover agency; H. Linet, A. J. Sharick, Morris Alin, B. Bernard Kreisler, Thomas Mead, Joseph O'Brien and Bob Wile, all of Universal.

Dudley Interment in Kansas Home Town

Funeral services for Walter Bronson (Bide) Dudley, who died Tuesday after a long illness, were held yesterday at The Chapel, 148 E. 74th St., here. Burial will be in Leavenworth, Kansas, where he spent his childhood.

Dudley, a familiar figure in show business, was variously a drama critic, radio commentator, playwright and theatrical columnist. He was the father of Doris Dudley, one time film star, and the grandfather of Jack Jenkins, star of "The Human Comedy." Other survivors include a son, Bronson Dudley, actor and dancer, another grandson and two sisters.

Host Kitty Carlisle

Kitty Carlisle, recent addition to Warner's star roster, will be guest of honor at a Stork Club reception tomorrow for her and the press.

North Platte Curfew

NORTH PLATTE, Neb., Jan. 5.—This city has adopted a curfew requiring all children under 16 to be off the streets by 10:30.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 5

HERBERT T. KALMUS, president of Technicolor, left here last night for an extended business stay in the East.

•

Paramount today announced "Pacess on the Warpath," an origin story of the Oklahoma oil boom. Film will be in Technicolor and will star Dorothy Lamour. Sam Coslow directs.

•

Columbia today signed Zoltan Korda to a producer-director contract and assigned him "Counter Attack," based on the Broadway play, as his first production.

•

Harold Lewis, formerly with RKO-Pathe, recently discharged from the Army, was appointed production manager for International today.

•

Sam Goldwyn announced today that he has signed Victor McLaglen for the Bob Hope starrer, "Treasure Chest."

•

Don McElwaine of M-G-M's publicity department, left here for the East last night for a two-weeks' stay.

•

Warners Bros. have signed Vincent Sherman to a directing contract.

•

RKO has purchased "One Exciting Night"; Herman Schlom produces.

Trade Editors Meet Today with Red Cross

New York film trade paper editors will meet at luncheon in the Hotel Roosevelt today to discuss cooperation in the Red Cross drive as guests of Robert Emerson, publicity chairman of the commerce and industry committee.

Principal speakers will be James M. Cecil, president of Cecil & Presbrey, ad agency; Mrs. Henry R. Breckenridge, who has charge of advertising features for the campaign, and Elliott Lee, of the commerce and industry committee.

John Young Passes, Was Scenic Designer

NORTH PELHAM, N. Y., Jan. 5.—John H. Young, 86, prominent as a Broadway scenic artist years ago, died yesterday at his home here.

A native of Grand Rapids, Mich., Young was also an expert at creating stage mechanical displays.

Surviving are a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Chatterton Young; two sons, Lieut. John H. Jr. of the Navy, and Louis Cass Young of Springfield, Mass., and an adopted daughter, Mrs. Lillian Flesh, Janesville, Fla.

Sabu Becomes American

BALTIMORE, Jan. 5—Sabu Dastagir, — Sabu the film star — became an American citizen here yesterday in Federal Court. He is now a private in the U. S. Army.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign: single copies, 10c.

We at Warner Bros.

WANT SINCERELY TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO ALL THE MOTION PICTURE CRITICS OF NEW YORK, FOR THEIR SELECTION OF

"WATCH ON THE RHINE"

AS THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR

WE FEEL THAT THIS CHOICE IS NOT ONLY RECOGNITION OF A FINE ENTERTAINMENT, BUT IS ALSO RECOGNITION OF THIS COMPANY'S CONVICTION THAT OUR INDUSTRY HAS A VERY REAL OBLIGATION: TO PRODUCE THE KIND OF PICTURES THAT WILL, WITHIN THE STRICT LIMITS OF ENTERTAINMENT, HELP TO ADVANCE THE FREEDOMS WHICH ALL DECENT MEN HOLD DEAR.

THEIR FURTHER CHOICE OF

IDA LUPINO

AS THE BEST ACTRESS OF THE YEAR

FOR HER PERFORMANCE IN "THE HARD WAY", AND OF

PAUL LUKAS

AS THE BEST ACTOR OF THE YEAR

FOR HIS PERFORMANCE IN "WATCH ON THE RHINE", MAKING THIS YEAR'S AWARDS ALMOST WHOLLY A WARNER BROS. "PARTY", HAS MADE ALL OF US HAPPY, PROUD AND MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO KEEP WARNER BROS. OUT IN FRONT.

Jack L. Warner

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Personal Mention

(Other Personals on Page 2)

EARLE W. SWEIGERT, Paramount district manager in Philadelphia, has been appointed local industry chairman for the Red Cross Drive in March.

•

CORP. LOU JACOBSON, son of MORRIS JACOBSON, Strand Amusements, Bridgeport, Conn., and formerly with Warners in New Haven, was injured in a jeep accident at Long Beach, Cal.

•

NICHOLAS NAPOLI president of Artkino Pictures, will leave Friday for a three weeks' trip to the Coast in connection with the distribution of Soviet films.

•

JOSEPH FELDMAN, Warner Theatres' assistant zone manager in Pittsburgh, is in New York for the remainder of the week.

•

FREDRIC MARCH and SAMMY WALSH have returned from a 14 weeks' USO-Camp Shows tour in Africa, Italy and the Middle East.

•

R. J. O'DONNELL, general manager of Interstate Circuit of Texas, has returned to Dallas after a New York visit.

•

BRYAN STONER, M-G-M Pittsburgh branch manager, returned yesterday to his headquarters, after a week's vacation in New York.

•

HARRY M. KALMINE, assistant general manager of Warner Theatres, left yesterday for Pittsburgh. He will return over the weekend.

•

DAVID CARTER, Universal's Eastern radio contact, has returned to his home office desk after a long illness.

•

JACK FLYNN, M-G-M Western sales manager, is expected to return to Chicago tomorrow.

•

MILTON CRANDALL, of Universal's home office exploitation department, is on vacation.

•

BEN GOLDMAN, Warners' exchange maintenance department field man, left yesterday for Atlanta.

SPG Will Look Into 'Canteen' Controversy

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 5.—Screen Publicists Guild last night appointed a committee to study issues involved in the conflict between Hollywood Stage Door Canteen board of directors and the Screen Actors Guild with respect to the latter's insistence on full compensation for players in the Warner production of "Hollywood Canteen."

At the same time it passed a resolution to notify the SAG that the SPG has taken no official position in the matter. The step was taken to offset a circulated report that SPG spokesmen had expressed disapproval of SAG's action during the Canteen board's meeting Monday night.

SAG Issues Statement

SAG tonight issued an invitation to the Canteen to send a committee to next Monday's board meeting to present arguments for waiving Rule 33 as applied to the Warner production.

Review

"The Spider Woman"

(Universal)

"SPIDER WOMAN" is especially good for followers of the adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, who are again admirably portrayed by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, It will send chills down the spines of the most hardened mystery fans; it will play havoc with the nerves of those unaccustomed to Holmes' methods and "elementary" deductions, but it will doubtless be a pleasant form of nervous prostration, for this is one of the best of the Holmes' adventures. Exploitation possibilities are unlimited. The exhibitor will see in this a wealth of ideas for fronts, streamers and other means of publicizing an exciting mystery melodrama.

Rathbone is faced with "Lycosa Carnivera," a deadly member of the spider genus, and the insect's crafty keeper, lovely Gale Sondergaard. In this figment of screen writer Bertram Millhauser's imagination, Miss Sondergaard forces her victims—men who need money—to commit suicide by allowing her killer spider to bite them, after she has induced the victim to sign his insurance policy over to one of her accomplices, in return for a financial loan. It's a nice racket but Sherlock "catches on." One of the novel angles is that everyone else knows who the perpetrator of the crime is—even the audience. But the problem is securing the evidence to convict her. After a series of exciting episodes, involving the attempted killing of Rathbone and Bruce several times, Miss Sondergaard is caught in the back room of a carnival shooting gallery, as she is trying to do away with Holmes.

Roy William Neill produced. He also directed, and very capably, getting the utmost out of Millhauser's well-written screenplay. Rathbone turns in his usual fine characterization of the detective while Bruce is good as Watson. Miss Sondergaard does a commendable job in the role of the "Spider Woman." Dennis Hoey, as Scotland Yard's Inspector Lestrade, is also good. Supporting in fine fashion are Vernon Downing, Alex Craig, Mary Gordon, Arthur Hohl and Teddy Infuhr.

Running time, 62 mins. Release date not set. "G."*

HELEN MCNAMARA

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Sgt. Hinchley Has Circuit, No Houses

(Continued from page 1)

United States which carry morale-building entertainment films many from Hollywood to soldiers in even the most remote portions of a wide territory. When a show is scheduled for troops stationed where no road is available, one of the projection outfits is mounted in a jeep and driven into the cargo hold of a plane to be flown to the site. Typical of the difficulties encountered was the occasion when a temporary landing field was selected as the site for an evening show. On the surface, it looked ideal. The screen was set up, soldiers assembled and the truck with the equipment was driven onto the field. But it had a weak foundation and the truck, weighing several tons, broke through the surface and was mired, with the projector lens only slightly above ground level—too low to hit even the bottom of the screen.

Problem Attacked

The problem was promptly attacked. Truck and equipment were dug out and moved to a firmer location. The audience followed, and the program was screened as scheduled.

With little or no technical foundation to begin with, Hinchley said, workshops have been evolved and sound equipments are now being serviced with such efficiency that shows can be given regularly. He sent the thanks of troops in the territory to those concerned with supplying equipments and films which, he said, mean much to the men at the front.

IBEW Starts Strike Vote Polling Today

(Continued from page 1)

changes which will be discussed following an American Federation of Labor executive council meeting in Miami on Jan. 17. "They include provisions for a work stoppage pending a dispute with removal of the cause for complaint prior to arbitration, guarantee of a work year of a certain number of weeks annually, vacations and sick leave with pay," other basic union officials said.

The conference of studio unions is preparing to start early negotiations on demands made last week to Fred Pelton of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, including a 10 per cent increase for the day shift, a 20 per cent increase for the night shift, vacations and sick leave.

J. L. Hodson Honored At British Reception

James L. Hodson, who wrote the commentary for the British "Desert Victory," was honored at a reception given by the British Library of Information at the Hotel New Weston here yesterday. Hodson is here in connection with "Africa Freed," made jointly by the British and U. S. Armies. Participating in production were Col. Frank Capra, Capt. Anthony Veiller and Capt. John Huston, for the U. S., and Lieut. Hugh Stuart and Capt. Roy Boulting for the British.

George Archibald of the BLI, who was also present, disclosed that he will continue here for another two weeks, pending distribution arrangements for "Africa Freed," which will probably be released by M-G-M. Archibald revealed that when he returns to England he will continue with the BLI.

Production Total Drops To Low of 37

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 5.—The holiday lull continued at studios, with only three new pictures started, while nine finished to bring the total number shooting down to 37. The week before Christmas saw nine finished, two started and 43 shooting. The production scene:

Columbia

Shooting: "At Night We Dream," "Address Unknown."

Finished: "Sagebrush Heroes" (formerly "Heroes of the Sagebrush"), "Jam Session," "Once Upon a Time," "Two-Man Submarine."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross," "Three Men in White," "Dragon Seed," "Kismet," "Mr. Co-Ed."

Monogram

Shooting: "Block Busters," "Johnny Doesn't Live Here."

Finished: "Partners of the Trail," "Sonora Kid."

Paramount

Shooting: "And Now Tomorrow," "Road to Utopia," "Incendiary Blonde," "Till We Meet Again," "The Hitler Gang."

Finished: "National Barn Dance," "I Love a Soldier."

RKO-Radio

Shooting: "Marine Raiders," "Show Business."

Republic

Started: "The Man From Frisco," with Michael O'Shea, Anne Shirley.

Finished: "The Laramie Trail."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Ladies of Washington," with Trudy Marshall, Sheila Ryan, Anthony Quinn, John Hilliber, Ronald Graham.

Shooting: "Wilson," "The Purple Heart," "Greenwich Village," "Home in Indiana," "Bermuda Mystery" (formerly "Murder in Bermuda").

United Artists

(Angelus)

Started: "Strange Confession" with George Sanders, Linda Darnell, Edward Everett Horton, Hugo Haas, John Phillliber, Ferdinand Munier.

(Rogers)

Shooting: "Song of the Open Road."

(Small)

Shooting: "Up in Mabel's Room."

(Vanguard)

Shooting: "Since You Went Away."

Universal

Shooting: "The Merry Monahans," "Christmas Holiday."

Warners

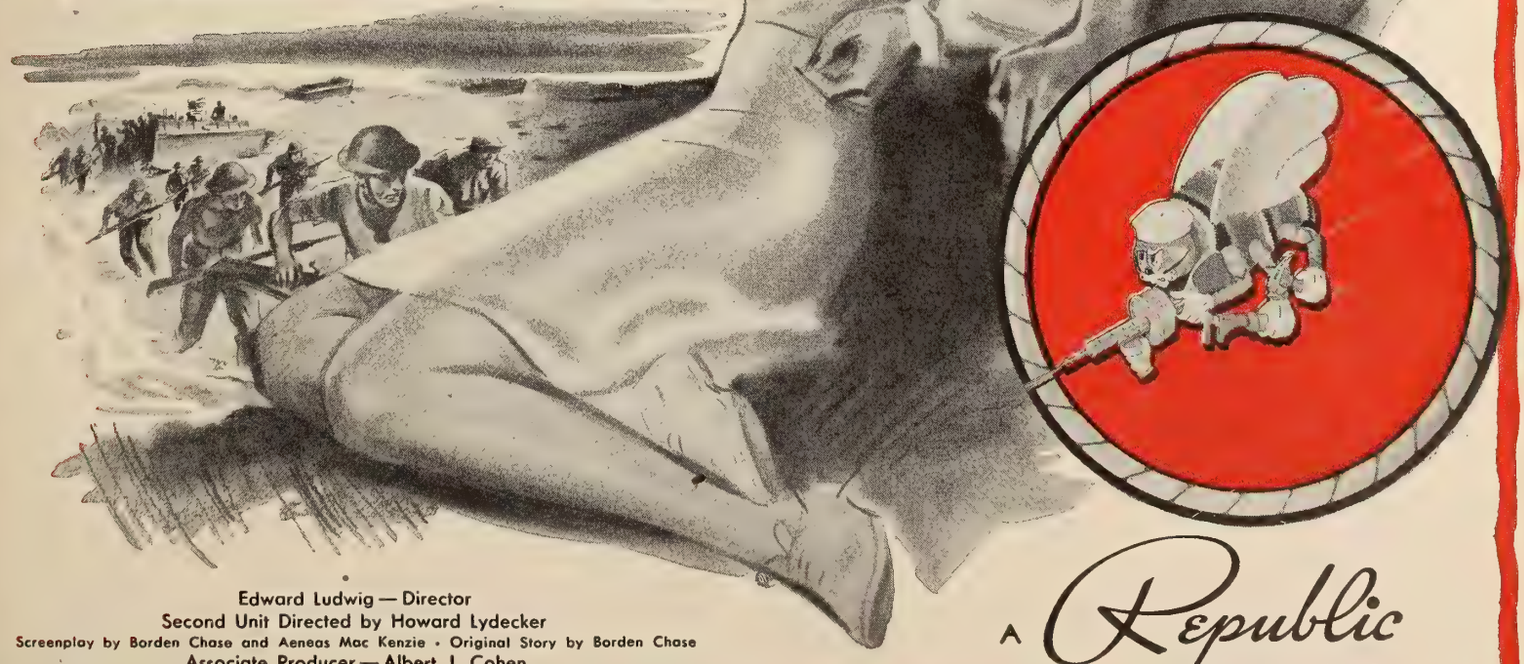
Shooting: "Cinderella Jones," "Make Your Own Bed," "Mask for Dimitrios," "Mr. Skeffington," "My Reputation," "The Horn Blows at Midnight."

ROMANCE OF THE SEVEN SEAS!

John WAYNE ★ Susan HAYWARD

THE FIGHTING SEABEES

with DENNIS O'KEEFE and
WILLIAM FRAWLEY • LEONID KINSKEY
J. M. KERRIGAN • GRANT WITHERS



Edward Ludwig — Director
Second Unit Directed by Howard Lydecker
Screenplay by Borden Chase and Aeneas Mac Kenzie • Original Story by Borden Chase
Associate Producer — Albert J. Cohen

A Republic PICTURE

Father Draft Hitting Sales Staffs Hard

(Continued from page 1)

salesmen take over additional territory when it is unable to secure replacements.

Universal is trying to double sales personnel by promoting from the ranks and training personnel in New York for service in the field. Detroit and Washington are said to be exceptionally difficult areas in which to secure replacements with the company understood at one time to have been compelled to send five secretaries of home office sales executives to Detroit temporarily to meet a critical situation.

Bookers Replace at RKO

RKO reports that where salesmen are drafted, bookers are promoted to take their places. The company has also lost several branch managers but has been able to make replacements from the ranks.

Paramount indicates that its exchanges have contributed a large quota to the armed services but most of it has come from the ranks of "junior sales executives" and in nearly every situation the company has been able to make replacements. "Paramount has not practiced doubling up of sales territories or similar makeshift selling methods because it would be impractical," Neil Agnew, Paramount general sales manager, said.

Warners report that the majority of its key personnel is beyond the present draft age and no serious deflections from the ranks are expected for awhile.

Other companies, however, report every expediency is being adopted to meet drastic situations as they arise. Many exchanges throughout the country are understood to be closing contracts and setting booking dates by mail and telephone to save on both manpower and gasoline.

'Seabees' Premiere At Woods Theatre

"The Fighting SeaBees," Republic production with John Wayne and Susan Hayward, will have a pre-release opening at the Woods Theatre, Chicago, Jan. 19, following simultaneous shows on the 14th at all SeaBee camps in the country.

Pre-release engagements are also set for the Malco, Memphis, Jan. 20; Stanton, Philadelphia, Jan. 22, and the Earle and Ambassador, Washington, Jan. 28. Extensive publicity campaigns are planned for these cities.

Oliver Estate Helps Amer. Actors Fund

A gift of $6,712 from the estate of the late Edna May Oliver is part of $17,212 recently received by the Actors' Fund of America. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Miller gave $10,000 and Monty Woolley gave $500.

At a special meeting next week the organization will make final plans on its annual benefit performance, Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Alvin Theatre.

Industry Salesmen Will Aid Fourth Loan Drive

(Continued from page 1)

vant, national campaign director. The additional footage features ex-Governor Al Smith urging audiences to volunteer as house-to-house salesmen during the drive. The project was arranged by the motion picture national campaign committee with Walton Ament, chairman of the newsreel division of WAC.

Five special trailers, totaling 12,000, are ready for shipment out of National Screen exchanges here, it was also announced yesterday. Release dates on the first three are: "Ginger Rogers Finds a Bargain," Jan. 18; "Boxoffice Maisie," Jan. 27, and "This Is Bob—4th War Loan—Hope," Feb. 6.

Charles Skouras announced that state chairmen will make a survey of territories to determine how many additional prints will be needed to reach all of the 16,000 theatres in the country.

National Screen also reports an assortment of mats specially prepared for exhibitor use on the drive. Shipments to NSS exchanges were made on Dec. 30.

Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland Activities

In Boston, the War Activities Committee meeting scheduled for the Hotel Statler this Friday has been postponed until Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. It will be addressed by prominent speakers of the industry from all over the country.

In Philadelphia, all local film exchanges will close Jan. 10 to allow full industry participation in the 4th War Bond rally to be held at 11 a.m. in the Broadwood Hotel. William F. Rodgers, vice-president of M-G-M; Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th-Fox, and Thomas J. Connors, vice-president of 20th-Fox, will attend.

In Cleveland, a bond for every seat in northern Ohio was the goal set at a distributor WAC meeting held with distributor chairman I. J. Schmertz and field chairman William N. Skirball. The latter has foregone a trip to Mexico to devote full time to the drive.

Sirens, Bells to Herald Opening of Drive

Church bells will ring and victory sirens will blow for five minutes at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 18, throughout every city and state of the country, Alaska, and Hawaii, to mark the opening of the motion picture industry's 4th War Loan Drive.

The plan was revealed yesterday by Charles P. Skouras, national chairman The idea is credited to H. H. Lowenstein and Donald Jacock, New Jersey showmen. "By this method public attention will be focused upon the campaign in a manner which it is expected will have durable inspiration throughout the drive," it was said.

This will be the industry's call to the nation to purchase bonds in its effort to sell "a bond for every seat," which means a goal of $5,500,000,000.

Arrangements for carrying out the plan are being handled by WAC state chairmen of the drive.

Balaban Urges Premiere at Chicago's Opera House

CHICAGO, Jan. 5.—At a meeting of distributors and exhibitors from this area at the Blackstone Hotel today, John Balaban recommended a premiere performance of some outstanding picture be given in the early stages of activity on the 4th War Loan Drive, preferably at the Civic Opera House, if obtainable.

Jan. 25 was announced as "Free Movie Day" for bond purchasers here by Jules J. Rubens, state chairman. Jack Kirsch pledged support of Allied Theatres and William Hollander outlined numerous promotional ideas for the drive.

Those present were invited to attend a luncheon meeting on Friday, when Sister Kenny will speak in behalf of the local drive for the infantile paralysis fund in connection with the President's birthday ball.

Extra Bond Awards For N. Y. Showmen

The Metropolitan New York war bond theatre committee, headed by Edward Alperson, has decided that in addition to national awards as outlined in the WAC's 4th War Loan press book there will be four special awards for local showmen; a $100 war bond first prize, a $75 bond second prize, and a $50 bond for third prize. There will also be a $100 bond award to the captain whose theatres collectively sell the greatest number of bonds over quota.

The executive committee of the theatre division, headed by Dan Michalove, will meet tomorrow at 2:15 p.m. in the War Activities Committee headquarters, Paramount Building.

Skouras Names Selig as Ass't Campaign Director

Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry's 4th War Loan campaign yesterday announced the appointment of Robert Selig, of Denver, as assistant campaign director. Selig will be in charge of "The Honored 100" contest. He has already arrived from Denver and will be associated with the executives of the campaign committee at the headquarters of the drive in the offices of the War Activities Committee.

Selig is district manager of Fox Intermountain Theatres.

Will Confer on Short

Leon Schlesinger, producer of Warners' "Merrie Melodies" and "Looney Tunes," will go to Washington tomorrow to confer with the U. S. Bureau of Aeronautics on a fifth subject he will make for the bureau. Schlesinger has already made five technical shorts for use in Navy training. He will return to New York Monday.

John L. Black Dies

HAMILTON, O., Jan. 5.—John L. Black, 81, retired vaudeville entertainer and musician, died at his home here last night after a two weeks' illness. He was the father of Johnny Black, Jr., composer. Together the Blacks composed the hit, "Dardanella," in the early 20's.

Will Start 'Dimes' Campaign Earlier

(Continued from page 1)

E. L. Alperson, president of RKO Theatres, is also planning to start the 'Dimes' collections on the 20th in so-called "run" houses. Both he and Loew's C. C. Moskowitz of the campaign committee urge other theatres in similar situations to do likewise.

Loew theatres, which will begin their 'Dimes' collections on Jan. 20, are those in Akron, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Canton, Columbus, Dayton, Evansville, Harrisburg, Indianapolis, Houston, Kansas City, Louisville, Memphis, Nashville, New Orleans, Norfolk, Providence, Reading, Richmond, Rochester, St. Louis, Syracuse, Toledo, Wilmington and Washington.

Georgia Exhibitors Pledge Double Last Year's Total

ATLANTA, Jan. 5—Fully 1,200 of the 1,500 theatres in Georgia, Alabama and the Carolinas were represented at the five-state March of Dimes conference called here this week by J. H. Thompson, and it was predicted that Georgia would double its quota of last year, boosting collections from $18,000 to $36,000 or more.

The delegates, in session at the Piedmont Hotel, heard the announcement that all of Lucas and Jenkins theatres would take March of Dimes audience collection for the drive. W. H. Jenkins, introducing Governor Arnall of Georgia, said that the theatres afford the ideal point of contact between this cause and the American public.

Arnall Lauds Theatre

Governor Arnall said, "Theatre owners, who last year raised almost half the funds provided by the nation for infantile paralysis, have displayed their traditional warm heart."

Thompson and Hugh E. Martin, co-chairman for Georgia, presided at the meeting. From New York were E. L. Alperson, Harry Brandt, Oscar A. Doob and Dr. John L. Lavan, all of whom spoke. Bob Wilby added a plea in behalf of the 4th War Loan. Dr. John L. Lavan explained why, due to epidemics in 1943, it is important that the funds of the National Foundation be greater than ever in 1944. Dr. Ronert Bennett of the Warm Springs Foundation spoke, and directed a demonstration of the Sister Kenny method in which a young woman, almost entirely recovered after three months' treatment, was used as a model.

The New York "flying squadron" will proceed to Chicago for a meeting on Jan. 7 at the Blackstone Hotel.

Depinet Decision Due on New Air Show

(Continued from page 1)

was submitted by the Foote, Cone & Belding agency here. The program would be a supplement to other RKO air advertising.

M-G-M already has a 15-minute program five times a week on Mutual featuring Fulton Oursler as "The People's Reporter," and Warner Bros. is also understood to be considering a national network show.

'Tokyo' Destined for Terrific $45,000 In Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 5.—Business at downtown houses is spotty this week. Three new major pictures led, with "Destination Tokyo" out in front at the Mastbaum, figuring on $45,000. "Thousands Cheer" at the Stanley points to a $35,000 week, and "The Gang's All Here," adding $3,800 for its dual Sunday showing at the Earle to an anticipated $29,000 for the regular run at the Fox, should wind up with a total of $32,800.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 5-7:

"Government Girl" (RKO)
ALDINE—(900) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,700. (Average, $10,300)
"True to Life" (Para.)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days. Gross: $4,400. (Average, $3,500)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,200. (Average, $19,000)
"Around the World" (RKO) (6 days)
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville, including Ted Fio Rito's orchestra, Frank Fay, Marion Hutton, Chester Dophin, Candy Candido, Patti Palmer, Kay & Her Bros., Quig Quigley and The Solidaires. Gross: $25,300. (Average, $22,000)
"The Falcon and the Co-Ed" (RKO)
FAY'S—(2,200) (29c-35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days of vaudeville including Louis Jordan's orchestra, Ford, Benny & Bailey, Spider Bruce & Co., The Cabin Girls and Jim Wong Troupe. Gross: $11,000. (Average, $10,000)
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $29,000. (Average, $17,800)
"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average, $5,600)
"Sahara" (Col.)
KEITH'S — (2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $5,000. (Average, $5,000)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
MASTBAUM — (4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $45,000. (Average, $22,000)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STANLEY—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $35,000. (Average, $18,300)
"The Iron Major" (RKO)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average, $8,000)

'Tokyo' Is Baltimore Leader with $22,000

BALTIMORE, Jan. 5.—Business is almost back to boomtime proportions. "Destination Tokyo" is due for $22,000 at the Stanley, while "Thousands Cheer" is drawing a strong $21,500 at the Century.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 6:

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000)(28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $21,500. (Average, $16,500)
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(2,406) (28c-40c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average, $12,000)
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (28c-35c-40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average, $9,700)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average, $16,900)
"Government Girl" (RKO)
HIPPODROME—(2,205) (28c-39c-44c-55c-66c) 7 days. Stage show: Eddie White. The Whitsons, Pyramid Girls, Jane and Jerry Brandow, Wesson Bros. Gross: $20,000. (Average, $16,800)
"Hostages" (Para.)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average, $5,900)
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average, $7,500)

Off the Antenna

TALK of a general strike against the networks by the American Federation of Musicians is understood to have subsided noticeably since the preliminary meeting held between AFM and web representatives a couple of weeks ago. A further meeting is scheduled to be held within a week to work out the question of renewing union-network contracts which expire Feb. 1.... New features to appear in Hooper program ratings starting this month include composition of radio audiences by sex and age groups; ratings on Sunday afternoon sponsored and sustaining network programs; Saturday ratings during all daytime periods, both sponsored and sustaining, and sponsor identification analysis. . . . The Blue now numbers 175 affiliated stations with the addition of WHDF.

• • •

Purely Personal: *Ted Malone has been appointed program director of Associated Recorded Program Service. . . . Rose Bialick, secretary to Arthur Perles, CBS assistant director of press information, is now assisting Joan Lane, trade news editor. . . . Robert R. Ray is the new assistant to the director of operations at CBS. . . . Saul Ochs has joined the CBS music division and Doris Nevins Conway has joined the staff of the CBS press department. . . . Ivor Kenway has become assistant to Edgar Kobak, Blue vice-president. . . . Jo Ransome, formerly of NBC, is the new director of publicity and special events of WNEW. . . . William B. Lewis will assume his post as executive vice-president of the American Network about April 1. . . . Charles P. Hammond is the new director of advertising and promotion at NBC.*

• • •

Program Notes: March of Time suggests that exhibitors tie up the showing of the MOT release, "Youth in Crisis," with the new nationwide NBC weekly air series, "Here's to Youth" dealing with juvenile delinquency. The NBC program will have its premiere Jan. 15 on 100 stations . . . Lowell Thomas, voted 'best newscaster' in Motion Picture Daily's eighth annual radio poll moves from the Blue network to NBC on Jan. 24. . . . Mail order business is out for WHN in New York. Walt Dennis, former NAB press contact who is now director of publicity and special events for the station reveals that more emphasis will be placed on special events programing, featuring current affairs and persons of note in the news. . . . John Loder has replaced Preston Foster on the CBS "Silver Theatre" program. . . . Cecil B. DeMille will serve as emcee of RCA's "What's New?" program on the Blue web on Saturday before the program moves East leaving Don Ameche, regular emcee behind. . . . Lux Radio Theatre will present Warner's "The Constant Nymph," featuring Charles Boyer, Maureen O'Sullivan and Alexis Smith over CBS on Jan. 10. . . . Joel McCrea will be featured in highlights from Ernie Pyle's book, "Here Is Your War," to be broadcast on the NBC "Cavalcade" program Jan. 10. Lester Cowan is producing a picture based on the book.

'Around World' is Terrific in Cincy

CINCINNATI, Jan. 5. — Previously-deflated attendance curve rose materially this week on practically all fronts. Based on weekend business, top gross will go to the RKO Albee, where "Around the World," with an unusually strong stage show, is zooming to a terrific $37,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 5-8:

"Around the World" (RKO)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus New Year's Eve show at $1.10-$1.65-$2.20. Stage: Gracie Barrie and orchestra, Three Stooges, Mills Bros., Lloyd and Willis. Gross: $37,500. (Average, $22,000)
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $7,000. (Average, $10,000)
"Hands Across the Border" (Rep.)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,650. (Average, $1,400)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $900. (Average, $800)
"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average, $9,500)
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
"The Battle of Russia" (20th-Fox)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,800. (Average, $5,000)
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
"The Sultan's Daughter" (Mono.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $5,200. (Average, $4,200)
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $17,500. (Average, $15,000)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Palace. Gross: $6,500. (Average, $5,000)

'Riding High' Big $19,600 in Toronto

TORONTO, Jan. 5.—"Riding High" started at capacity at the Imperial and promised $19,600, while "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" was pointing to $18,800 at Shea's, and "Girl Crazy" looked like $17,300 at Loew's. Crowds at the Uptown for "His Butler's Sister" indicated $14,200. All grosses were helped by packed midnight shows at the turn of the year, the only occasion when local houses can have extra performances under wartime restrictions.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 6:

"This Is the Army" (WB)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, moveover. Gross: $5,400. (Average, $3,900)
"Riding High" (Para.)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $19,600. (Average, $12,600)
"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $17,300. (Average, $10,800)
"Sweet Rosie O'Grady" (20th-Fox)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $18,800. (Average, $12,300)
"True to Life" (Para.-Moveover)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $6,100. (Average, $4,600)
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $14,200. (Average, $9,700)

Poli Theatre Enlarged

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Jan. 5.—Loew's Poli Theatre here will undergo extensive repairs at a cost of $6,300.

'Cheer' Leads In Chicago at $36,000 Gross

CHICAGO, Jan. 5.—Business was good in Chicago first runs, although not up to expectations. Key spots in the outlying districts were mostly better than last year. Neighborhood houses were up 25 per cent against a normal week-end. "Thousands Cheer" at the State-Lake is expected to do about $36,000 for its second week. "Princess O'Rourke" at the United Artists will hit approximately $26,000 for its second week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 7:

"Northern Pursuit" (WB) 5 days, 3rd week in Loop
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox) 2 days
APOLLO — (1,200) (50c-65c-85c-$1.25). Gross: $17,000. (Average, $10,600)
"Riding High" (Para.)
CHICAGO—(4,000) (50c-65c-85c-$1.65) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $58,000. Stage: B & K Revue. (Average, $45,000)
"The Kansan" (UA)
"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.)
GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c-$1.25) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average, $8,700)
"Spider Woman" (Univ.) 1 day
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.) 1 day
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.) 6 days
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.) 6 days
GRAND — (1,150) (50c-65c-85c-$1.25) Gross: $26,000. (Average, $20,000)
"Sahara" (Col.)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c-$1.25) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average, $19,200)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STATE-LAKE—(2,700) (50c-65c-85c-$1.25) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $36,000. (Average, $22,600)
"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c-$1.25) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average, $19,200)
"Gangs, Inc." (PRC)
WOODS — (1,200) (50c-65c-85c-$1.25) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average, $10,000)

Cleveland Gross Is Highest in Months

CLEVELAND, Jan. 5.—All down the line business was at the highest level in three months. "Crazy House" with a strong stage show was a sell-out at the RKO Palace under a reserved seat, advanced price policy, aiming toward $38,000. "Old Acquaintance" is headed toward a $31,000 week at the Hippodrome.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 5:

"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average, $8,500)
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $31,000. (Average, $17,500)
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
WARNERS LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average, $3,000)
"Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average, $4,500)
"Crazy House" (Univ.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c and 85c Saturday and Sunday) 7 days. Stage: Latin Quarter Revue. Gross: $38,000. (Average, $22,000)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average, $17,500)
"Riding High" (Para.)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average, $9,500)

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Dec. 11	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S STRANGEST CASE Warner Baxter Rose Hobart Lynn Merrick D—(5021)	(Second Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)	MR. MUGGS STEPS OUT East Side Kids D—64 mins. (301)	(Second Block) RIDING HIGH (Technicolor) Dorothy Lamour Dick Powell Victor Moore M—89 mins. (4307)			(First Block) A LADY TAKES A CHANCE Jean Arthur John Wayne C—(405)			SHE'S FOR ME David Bruce Grace McDonald George Dolenz D—60 mins. (8041)	
Dec. 18	KLONDIKE KATE Tom Neal Ann Savage D	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	SMART GUY Rick Vallin D—63 mins. (227)	NO TIME FOR LOVE Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray Ilka Chase C—83 mins. (4309)	THE DRIFTER Buster Crabbe Al "Fuzzy" St. John (461) JIVE JUNCTION Dickie Moore Tina Thayer M—65 mins. (407)	PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA Ruth Terry Robert Livingston C Wally Vernon RAIDERS OF SUNSET PASS O—56 mins.	THE FALLEN SPARROW Maureen O'Hara John Garfield D—(401)			CALLING DR. DEATH Lon Chaney Patricia Morrison Ramsey Ames D—63 mins. (8026)	
Dec. 25	COWBOY IN THE CLOUDS Charles Starrett Walter "Dub" Taylor	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)		HENRY ALDRICH HAUNTS A HOUSE Jimmy Lydon Charles Smith John Litel C—73 mins. (4306)			ADVENTURES OF A ROOKIE Wally Brown Allen Carney C—(402)	THE GANG'S ALL HERE Carmen Miranda Alice Faye James Ellison 103 mins. (416) (Technicolor)	JACK LONDON D Michael O'Shea Susan Hayward 93 mins.	MOONLIGHT IN VERMONT Gloria Jean Fay Helm Sidney Miller Ray Malone D—62 mins. (8025)	
Jan. 1	WHAT A WOMAN Rosalind Russell Brian Aherne Willard Parker D—93 mins.	A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)			THE TEXAS RANGERS IN GUNSMOKE MESA James Newill (453)	WHISPERING FOOTSTEPS John Hubbard D—56 mins. OH. MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Frank Albertson C—69c mins.	THE SEVENTH VICTIM Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(403)		THE WOMAN OF THE TOWN Albert Dekker Claire Trevor D—88 mins.	GUNG HO Randolph Scott Alan Curtis David Bruce Noah Beery, Jr. D—88 mins.	
Jan. 8		CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417)	WOMEN IN BONDAGE Gail Patrick D—71 mins. (303)	MINESWEEPER Richard Arlen Jean Parker D—67 mins. (4308)	CAREER GIRL Frances Langford M—66 mins. (403)	CALIFORNIA JOE Don "Red" Barry Helen Talbot Wally Vernon O	SO THIS IS WASHINGTON Lum & Abner C—(404)	THE LODGER Merle Oberon George Sanders Laird Cregar D—84 mins. (417)		SING A JINGLE Allan Jones June Vincent Samuel S. Hinds M—62 mins. (8034)	DESTINATION TOKYO Cary Grant John Garfield D—135 mins. (309)
Jan. 15	THE RACKET MAN Tom Neal Jeanne Bates Hugh Beaumont D—64 mins.	RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—(418)	WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN Jackie Cooper D—72 mins. (302)	(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)		PRIDE OF THE PLAINS Bob Livingston Smiley Burnette O HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Roy Rogers O—74 mins. (341)	(Second Block) THE IRON MAJOR Pat O'Brien D—85 mins. (406)		THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS Anna Sten Kent Smith D—79 mins.	ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES (in Technicolor) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—87 mins.	
Jan. 22	SWING OUT THE BLUES Bob Haymes Lynn Merrick M—70 mins.	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—115 mins. (419)	SULTAN'S DAUGHTER Ann Corio C—64 mins. (888) WESTWARD BOUND Hoot Gibson Ken Maynard O—(362)		NABONGA Buster Crabbe Fifi D'Orsay Barton MacLane D	ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RHYTHM Gene Autry (Re-issue) O (3301)	GANGWAY FOR TOMORROW Margo Robert Ryan D—(407)			SPIDER WOMAN Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce Gale Sondergaard D—62 mins. (8021)	
Jan. 29	BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKE Joan Davis John Hubbard C	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—(420)	WHAT A MAN Johnnie Downs C—66 mins. (228) RAIDERS OF THE BORDER Johnny Mack Brown O—(352)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)		WOMEN IN WAR Elsie Janis D	GOVERNMENT GIRL Olivia De Havilland Sonny Tufts D—(408)		KNICKER-BOCKER HOLIDAY Nelson Eddy Charles Coburn D	PHANTOM LADY Franchot Tone Ella Raines Alan Curtis D	
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE Marsha Hunt Alexander Knox D	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315)	THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)			GILDERSLEEVE ON BROADWAY Harold Peary Billie Burke C—65 mins. (409)			SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C		THE FALCON AND THE CO-EDS Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(410)		THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D	
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	MADAM CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)	VODOO MAN D	TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)			NORTH STAR Anne Baxter Walter Huston Dana Andrews D—105 mins. (451)			WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D	

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 5 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1944 TEN CENTS

"Freeze" Chains, Offer Cancellations in Decree

Consent Companies Ready to Accept Clamps On Circuit Growth—Eliminations in 20, 10 and 5% Brackets Proposed

By RED KANN

The five consent decree companies have agreed to restrictions, in a new decree, so rigorous that a virtual freezing of their current holdings in the theatre field would result. They also agree to downscale cancellations in brackets of 20, 10 and five per cent. At the same time, they are in substantial agreement on a new definition that an independent is what his name suggests if he operates six theatres as against the five defined in the decree which expired on Nov. 20, 1943.

These concessions constitute three significant highlights of a revised document which went to the printers yesterday, immediately ahead of submission to the Department of Justice for approval.

There is no commitment on the part of Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark that the proposals, which are to all intents final, necessarily will be found acceptable by the Government or by exhibitors.

It has been understood for some time that the Department of Justice was determined to set up controls which will prevent the five theatre-owning-and-operating distributors from embarking upon wholesale expansions in the exhibition field.

The five majors have been familiar with this insistence for some time and have been informed no revised decree

(Continued on page 8)

W.B. Reports 1943 Profit Of $8,238,483

Net Will Yield $2.12 Per Share on Common

Warner Bros. Pictures and subsidiaries report for the year ending Aug. 31, 1943, an operating profit of $8,238,483 after deducting losses of $4,537,222 arising from the sale or other disposal of certain real estate and after provision for Federal taxes of $13,890,000. This compares with an operating profit of $8,554,512 for the previous year after Federal taxes of $8,250,000. The real estate on which losses were sustained were properties acquired for new theatre construction which subsequently was abandoned.

The operating profit is equivalent, after provision for the year's dividend on preferred stock, to $2.12 per share on outstanding common stock, compared with $2.20 per share last year.

Gross income after eliminating in-

(Continude on page 6)

Enlisting All House Workers to Aid in 4th War Loan Drive

Further evidence of the extent to which the industry's 4th War Bond campaign committee is organizing industry manpower not heretofore used widely in previous bonus campaigns came yesterday with the announcement from War Activities Committee headquarters here that theatre projectionists and theatre artists are being asked to contribute active support. On Wednesday the aid of all film salesmen was requested.

Theatre artists are being marshalled to aid the drive with ideas and suggestions to assist in the exploitation of the campaign so that the entire industry, particularly small exhibitors, may have the benefit of professional help. Many small theatres cannot afford artists of their own. The committee calls for "vibrant" art treatment in developing lobby fronts

(Continued on page 8)

Rank Rumored Cool To Kelly Proposals

LONDON, Jan. 6.—J. Arthur Rank reputedly is indifferent thus far to proposals reliably understood to have been made by Arthur W. Kelly, United Artists' foreign sales chief, here from New York, under which United Artists would supplant 20th Century-

(Continued on page 6)

Canada Again Eases Ad Accessories Ban

TORONTO, Jan. 6.—The Government administrator of printing and publishing industries has again eased regulations prohibiting the use of advertising accessories by theatres by issuing a permit for the display of posters from one to 24 sheets in regular locations anywhere where permanent stands had previously been employed. This concession will allow up to the limit of supplies in stock of film companies or poster exchanges.

No new billboard locations will be permitted by theatres. And no posters or window cards are to be print-

(Continude on page 6)

Seadler Heads Publicity Group

Si Seadler, M-G-M advertising manager, was elected chairman of the motion picture industry's Eastern Division public information committee for a period of six months at a luncheon-meeting of the committee at the New York Athletic Club yesterday. He succeeds Maurice Bergman, Universal Eastern advertising-publicity manager. Com-

(Continude on page 6)

Balaban and Zukor Sure Of Future for Industry

Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of Paramount, today will observe his 71st birthday with pride in the industry in which he has played such a distinguished role and confident in its future provided conservative policies prevail.



Adolph Zukor

In an interview yesterday, he expressed a mild disinclination to turn back the pages of the past, but all inclination to appraise the present and the future. On

(Continude on page 6)

"The war has brought additional responsibilities to the industry—responsibilities which the industry has accepted gladly and fulfilled to the best of its ability; peace will bring even greater responsibilities — responsibilities to both our own country and to the peoples of a liberated world," Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, warned yesterday. However, "compared to other large American indus-



Barney Balaban

(Continude on page 6)

Arbitration Stops While Decree Pends

Because any revised consent decree is expected to include substantial changes in the existing arbitration system, there is now a practical halt in film arbitration before the motion picture tribunals of the American Arbitration Association.

Less than half a dozen cases have been filed since the final deadline rush which marked the expiration of the current decree's trial period on Nov. 20. The last case was filed at Detroit on Dec. 14.

Dockets in the 31 field tribunals are

(Continued on page 8)

Personal Mention

NED E. DEPINET, RKO Radio president, will leave tomorrow by plane for Dallas and from there to the Coast to confer with CHARLES KOERNER.

•

LEILA SCHLAMP and MARY RYAN of RKO Theatres' film booking offices were entertained at a luncheon Wednesday, by co-workers in honor of MISS SCHLAMP'S recent marriage and MISS RYAN'S engagement.

•

REX WILLIAMS, manager of Loew's State, St. Louis, is recovering from injuries and a subsequent attack of pneumonia suffered in an automobile accident.

•

NATHAN GOLDEN, head of the motion picture section of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, has returned to his desk recovered from illness.

•

SAMUEL WEISS and MRS. WEISS of the Avon and Stamford Theatres, Stamford, Conn., are recuperating at home after being thrown from their horse-drawn buggy.

•

HAROLD J. MIRISCH, chief film buyer for the RKO circuit, will leave today for Milwaukee to report to his local board for induction Monday.

•

ALFRED EDWARD DAFF, Universal foreign office executive, returned yesterday after a four months' trip through Latin America.

•

JOSEPH QUITTNER, co-owner of the Quittner and Perakos Theatre circuit of Connecticut, was a Hartford visitor this week.

•

HERMAN STERN, head of Universal's non-theatrical department, has returned to his desk after a long illness.

•

PHILIP TRENT, Universal Philadelphia salesman, has been transferred to New Haven.

•

JOE E. BROWN has arrived in Algiers to entertain troops, according to a dispatch received here yesterday.

•

MIKE STRANGER, assistant manager of Loew's Palace, Hartford, is in Boston.

•

ESTELLE SCHROTT, film publicist, has returned from Mexico.

•

MICHAEL DALY, owner of the Daly Theatre, Hartford, is ill.

•

RALPH STEINER, producer, will leave for Hollywood today.

•

Herbert J. Yates flew to Hollywood last night.

Soskin Enroute to U. S.

LONDON, Jan. 6. — Paul Soskin, British producer, is enroute to New York seeking actors and background for "Signed with Their Honor."

Indicted for U. S. Sale of Nazi Films

Frank F. Ferenz and Ernest Eisele, Sr., two of the 33 alleged Nazis or Nazis sympathizers recently indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Washington for sedition or other charges have been discovered to both have participated in the American film business.

Ferenz was the former owner and operator of the Continental Theatre, Los Angeles, and Eisele, Sr., of Staten Island, was connected with the German Ufa-Films, Inc. They were specifically indicted for selling Nazi motion pictures in the United States and on other charges.

Besides old Ufa-Film connections, Eisele was found to be a subsidized distributor of the "new order's" films and was also president of B. Westermann Co., Inc., an "elite" German bookstore on 48th St., New York, which the FBI closed on Dec. 8, 1941, charged the president with aiding and abetting the firm into failing to register as a foreign agent.

Ferenz, whose Continental Theatre showed Nazi pictures exclusively, was also active in the Friends of Progress. Two-and-a-half years ago, it is said, he was a member of a Hollywood reception committee for Senator Burton K. Wheeler and personally conducted him about some film studios.

To Examine Schenck, Dietz in Grafton Suit

Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, and Howard Dietz, director of advertising and publicity, will be the first of M-G-M executives to be examined Jan. 14, before trial in the $1,000,000 suit for damages, which was filed last October by Grafton Films, Inc., in New York Federal Court, against Loew's, Inc.

The suit charged breach of contract with respect to the distribution and exhibition in this country of "The Stars Look Down." Grafton alleged that after a distribution deal was entered into with M-G-M pictures, Ltd., of England, Loew subsidiary, the company here delayed release after learning that 20th-Fox had in production "How Green Was My Valley," a film dealing with a similar topic.

Indictments of Nick, Weston Dismissed

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 6.—Chances for paroles from Federal prison for John P. Nick and Clyde Weston, former bosses of the operators' Local No. 142, have increased with dismissal here of state indictments charging both with extortion. Dismissals were based on the legal technicality that they had not been brought to trial within four terms of court.

Nick and Weston were sentenced to five years in Federal prison in Jan., 1942, on charges of violating an anti-racketeering statute. They became eligible for parole last September, but their applications were not considered then because the state charges were pending against them.

Put the Finger on Dannielle Darrieux

London, Jan. 6. — Dannielle Darrieux, who began her screen career in France at the age of 14 and went to Hollywood in 1937, has been condemned to die in her native land, according to *Bir Hakeim*, newspaper of the French Underground, and reported here by cable dispatches from London. Miss Darrieux is charged by the Underground with collaborating with the Nazis. It is understood that the actress returned to Paris in 1938 and remained in France during the German occupation.

The dispatches said that "while in Hollywood the actress received a salary three times bigger than President Roosevelt's."

Producers' Job to Halt Apathy: Griffis

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 6.—Addressing 31 producers and writers engaged in the production of war shorts to be distributed by the War Activities Committee, Stanton Griffis, film head of the OWI, told them here yesterday that their "pressing duty in the months ahead is to correct the apathy toward the war, evidenced both in the patronage of black markets and in the talk that the war will be over in two or three months."

Griffis said that within the next two or three months Washington will send experts to Hollywood to furnish the facts for presentation in the shorts, adding that producers and writers "need not bother to try to entertain when they are presenting war information." With Griffis at a special luncheon were Keith Heimbaugh of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Other guests at the luncheon, held at Perrino's, were Y. Frank Freeman, Association of M. P. Producers; Lloyd Wright, Society of Independent M. P. Producers, and I. E. Chadwick, Independent Motion Picture Producers Association.

Levey in Settlement Of Monogram Suit

The $500,000 breach of contract suit filed in Federal Court here, by Arthur Levey against Monogram, Pathe, Ltd., W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram, and William Gell, in charge of the English distribution for Pathe, has been settled out of court, it was learned here yesterday.

Levey alleged that under a contract entered into in 1936 with Monogram, he was to receive five per cent on all Monogram films distributed by Pathe in England. The complaint alleged that the defendants deprived him of commissions after 1941 as the result of a conspiracy between them which resulted in a new contract.

New Houses Not to Cut Equipment Flow

Although a survey conducted by the U. S. Office of Civilian Requirements indicates that 100 new theatres are needed for crowded war production areas, this construction will not seriously disrupt the supply of replacement and maintenance equipment needed to keep present houses operating, according to theatre supply dealers and theatre circuit equipment purchasing officials in New York.

Repair priorities granted by the WPB have met the minimum needs of all affiliated and most independent circuits and single house operators. Moreover, many circuits have sufficient reserves of projectors, seats and carpeting to keep their houses presentable.

The most important post-war needs, it is indicated, will be re-seating, new carpeting, materials for interior decorations and replacements of sound and projection parts, in about that order.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

Dorothy LAMOUR - Dick POWELL - Victor MOORE
in
"RIDING HIGH"
A Paramount Picture
IN TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON
TOMMY DORSEY and Band
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
OLIVIA DeHAVILLAND SONNY TUFTS
'GOVERNMENT GIRL'
James Dunn Anne Shirley Jess Barker

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Mickey ROONEY . Judy GARLAND
In M-G-M's
'GIRL CRAZY'
In Person
Grace McDonald
Smith & Dale
Salici Puppets

ALICE FAYE · CARMEN MIRANDA · PHIL BAKER
BENNY GOODMAN AND HIS ORCH.
The Gang's All Here
in TECHNICOLOR!
PLUS A BIG STAGE SHOW ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter. Sept. 23. 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign: single copies, 10c.

TARZAN BREAKS OPENING RECORD ON BROADWAY!

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

1223

A. N. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT — NEWCOMB CARLTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD — J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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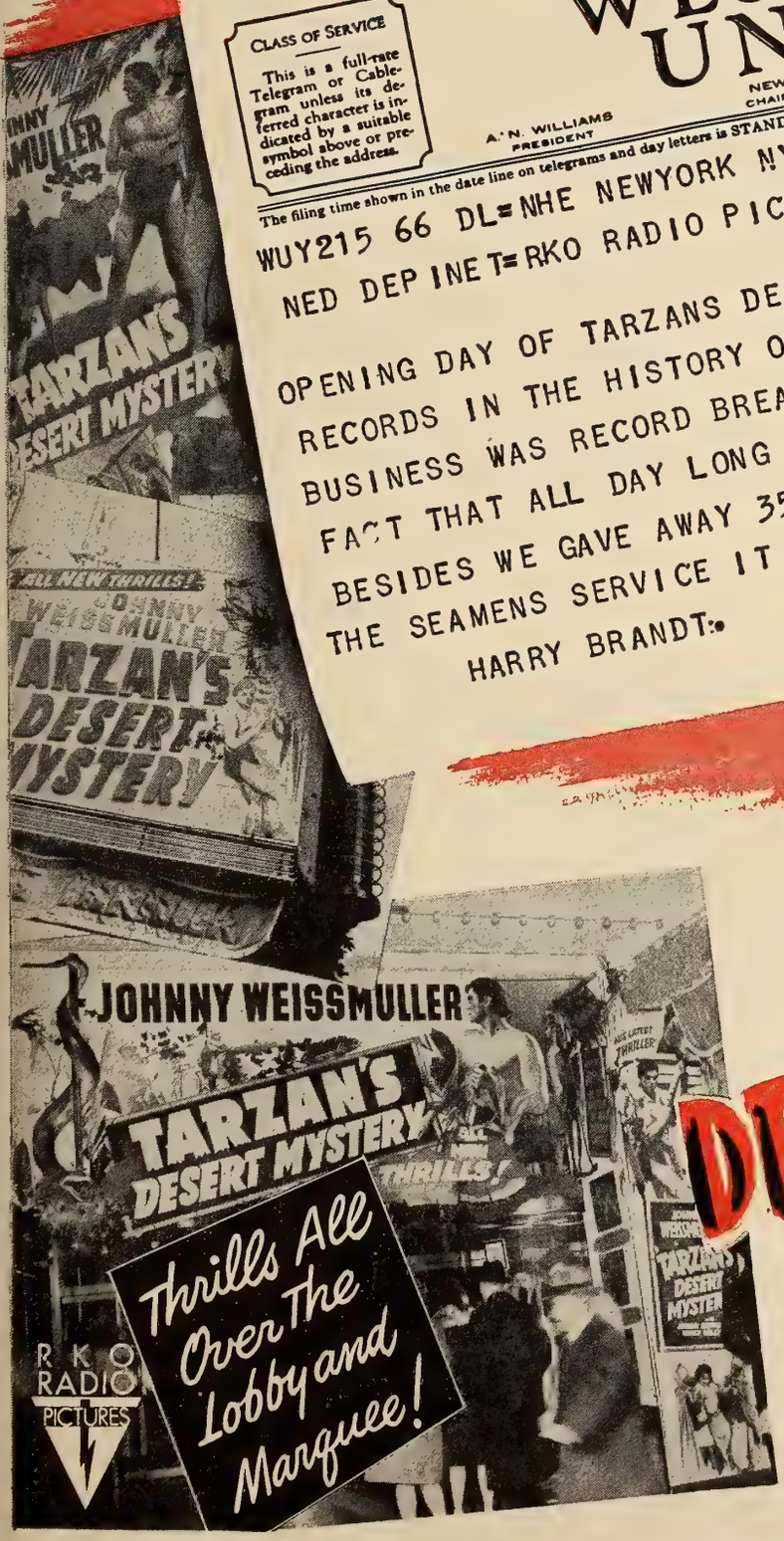
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OPENING DAY OF TARZANS DESERT MYSTERY BROKE ALL OPENING DAYS RECORDS IN THE HISTORY OF THE GLOBE THEATRE ON BROADWAY. BUSINESS WAS RECORD BREAKING FOR THE DAY IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT ALL DAY LONG WE CHARGE A LOW SERVICE MENSPRICE AND BESIDES WE GAVE AWAY 350 COMPLIMENTARY SEATS TO THE USO AND THE SEAMENS SERVICE IT IS A SPLENDID ATTRACTION REGARDS=

HARRY BRANDT.



Edgar Rice Burroughs'

TARZAN'S DESERT MYSTERY

Starring

JOHNNY WEISSMULLER · NANCY KELLY · JOHNNY SHEFFIELD

with

OTTO KRUGER • JOE SAWYER • LLOYD CORRIGAN
ROBERT LOWERY • FRANK PUGLIA • PHIL VAN ZANDT

Produced by SOL LESSER *Directed by* WILLIAM THIELE

Screen Play by Edward T. Lowe • From a Story by Carroll Young
Based Upon the Characters Created by Edgar Rice Burroughs

OUR TWO BIG JOBS IN JANUARY: FOURTH WAR LOAN AND MARCH OF DIMES

Troops Crave Films As Much as Food, Mail, March Says

"Food, mail and motion pictures are the three most important things in the lives of our soldiers overseas," Fredric March declared in an interview at USO-Camp Shows headquarters here yesterday. March and Sammy Walsh, vaudeville and night club comedian, headed a USO-Camp shows overseas entertainment group which has just returned from a 14-week tour that touched North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe.

"Our troops overseas want to see more newsreels," March said. "They want to see what the fellows in the other theatres of war are doing. They also want to see more of Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse. Musicals and comedies are their preferences. They do not care for war pictures."

Film Situation Better

March revealed that the situation as far as the showing of American films to our armed forces in the African and European theatres of war is concerned is "definitely better" but that mechanical problems created by worn prints and poor sound reproduction still remain. He saw "Stormy Weather" and "Mr. Lucky" in Central Africa. "Our boys overseas get a thrill in seeing films before the folks at home do," March said. "They are getting more and better films now."

Regarding his own performances with the troop March explained that he talked about films and his work in them and did satirical impressions of radio commentators.

Conciliation Service Joins Studio Dispute

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 6.—Federal Labor Conciliation Service has entered the dispute over negotiations of new contracts replacing those expiring Dec. 31 between sound technicians and photographers and the producers, at the insistence of officials of both IATSE unions.

Conciliator L. L. Livingston conferred with representatives of both unions, with officials of other IATSE unions sitting in, during which demands for a written guarantee from producers for a retroactive date as of Jan. 1, establishment of a definite date for the start of negotiations, and extension of the present contract from Jan. 1 until a new one is signed, were presented.

Livingston later conferred with producers' representatives, and then left the city immediately to confer with Ernest Marsh, Regional Conciliation director of San Francisco and will return tomorrow. The Federal Department is also reported assigning a field representative to confer with Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, in New York.

"Undercover" to Graetz

Paul Graetz's AFE Corp., here will acquire U. S. distribution rights to "Undercover," an Ealing Studio British production. H. William Fitelson, of the law firm of Fitelson and Mayers, is representing Ealing.

Review

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves"

(Universal)

LAVISHLY produced in brilliant Technicolor, "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" is an eye-filling, romantic adventure film of the middle ages when Bagdad was overrun by the Mongols. It is a worthy successor to "Arabian Nights." In fact, scripter Edmund L. Hartmann has used the legend from the Arabian Nights stories as the basis for this spectacle featuring Maria Montez and Jon Hall. It should delight both young and old alike and prove to be a good box-office attraction since the legend enjoys wide popularity.

Hall plays the role of Ali Baba and Miss Montez is Amara, the daughter of the perfidious Prince Cassim, capably portrayed by Frank Puglia. As the story goes, Prince Cassim betrays his ruler, the Caliph of Bagdad, when the Mongols invade the land. The Caliph is killed but his young son, Ali, escapes. He wanders into the cave of the 40 thieves led by Old Baba. They admire his spirit and when they discover his identity, they adopt him. Under his influence they become a militant band working for the overthrow of the oppressive Mongol rule.

To continue to curry favor with Hulagu Khan, leader of the Mongols, Prince Cassim prepares to give his daughter to the Khan in marriage. Hall and Miss Montez have plighted their troth as children, but she and her father as well as the Khan believe that the son of the Caliph is dead. The periodic raids made by Ali Baba and his band have proved to be a sore spot. When they snatch Miss Montez from Bagdad while rescuing Hall, who has fallen into the clutches of the Mongols, the Khan is furious. His attempts to outwit Ali are futile and the Mongols are finally overthrown, enabling Hall and Miss Montez to be reunited in their love.

Paul Malvern produced, getting good results in every department. Arthur Lubin's direction maintains interest throughout. Others in the cast include Andy Devine, who portrays with gusto the role of Abdullah, one of the leaders of the thieves; Kurt Katch, who is a sinister-looking Khan; Fortunio Bonanova, who is Old Baba; and Moroni Olsen, the Caliph. Scotty Beckett turns in a neat performance as Ali at the age of 12, and Turhan Bey is a devoted slave and bodyguard to Miss Hall. Credit for the marching song of the thieves, "Forty and One for All," goes to J. Keirn Brennan.

Running time, 87 mins. Release date, Jan. 15. "G."*

MILT LIVINGSTON

*"G" denotes general classification.

Rosyl Defendants Granted Particulars

Federal Judge Francis G. Caffey here yesterday granted the motions of 18 defendants in the Sherman anti-trust action brought by the Rosyl Amusement Corp., operator of the Cameo Theatre, Jersey City, for a bill of particulars. The suit, for triple damages, alleges that the defendants, major distributors and some exhibitors conspired to create a film monopoly by restraining trade in Jersey City, Union City, North Bergen and Hoboken.

Theatre circuit defendants are Skouras, Loew's, Stanley and the Rosewelt Realty Co., which operates two theatres in the Jersey City area. A motion for dismissal of the action as to Rosewelt is pending in Federal Court here.

In addition to circuit operators, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, M-G-M, United Aritists, Columbia, Republic Warners, Monogram and other distributors are named.

MGM Lawyers Speak To Bookers, Auditors

Sidney S. Braunberg and Pincus Sober, M-G-M home office attorneys, yesterday spoke to M-G-M bookers and auditors at their annual meeting at the Astor Hotel. General sessions wound up yesterday but individual meetings will continue today between field men and Charles K. Stern, assistant treasurer, and Alan F. Cummings, in charge of exchange operations at the home office.

Liberty Gets Award In Clearance Suit

The arbitration appeal board here yesterday made public a decision affirming the award, with modification, of Charles J. Tobin, arbitrator at the Albany tribunal, in the clearance complaint of the Valley Theatre Corp., operating in the Liberty, Herkimer, N. Y., against Loew's, Paramount, RKO, 20th-Fox and Stanley-Mark-Strand Corp. and Charles C. Godon, Inc., as intervenors. The award stipulated that the maximum clearance which may be granted to the Stanley, Avon and Olympic theatres in Utica over the Liberty, on Loew's, Paramount, RKO and 20th-Fox product shall be seven days after the last play date played first-run in the intervenor's theatres.

Barnett Nabbed on Bankruptcy Charge

Roger Stanley Barnett, president of Color Classics, Inc., formerly of 320 Broadway, was arrested yesterday by FBI agents and charged with concealing $10,000 from a bankruptcy trustee. He was apprehended in Riverhead, N. Y., while working on a film short.

According to the FBI, Barnett is a photographer and the head of a former company which had engaged Leopold Stokowski to arrange musical scores for a series of shorts.

Mail-Fraud Trial Is Set for Feb. 7

Seven Chicago gangsters, six of them now serving 10-year prison sentences for extorting $1,000,000 from the industry, and Ralph Pierce, who was acquitted during the recent trial, will be taken to Federal Court here Feb. 7 for trial under a mail fraud indictment, according to Boris Kostelanetz, special Government prosecutor.

The indictment, filed March 24-1943, charges that the defendants formed a partnership with leaders of the IATSE, after having elevated George E. Browne to the presidency of that union, and then "bled" the union through a two per cent wage tax against union members.

Named in the indictment as co-conspirators but not as defendants are Browne and William Bioff. It is expected that Browne and Bioff will again be Government star witnesses.

Named as a confederate but not a defendant is Isadore Zevin, Browne's former secretary, who had already pleaded guilty to charges of perjury.

Six Pay Fines

The Government was $60,000 richer when the six Chicagoans elected to pay their $10,000 fines rather than submit to a Federal probe of their assets. The seventh defendant, Louis Kaufman, former Newark labor leader, sentenced to seven years imprisonment and fined $10,000, has not paid his fine as yet. He has moved to stay the judgment of the Court pending an appeal. The motion will be argued before Judge John Bright here on Monday.

Red Cross Asks Trade Press Aid

The American Red Cross yesterday again appealed to the motion picture trade press for aid in promoting the forthcoming nationwide Red Cross war fund drive in March. Representatives of the film press and the trade press of other fields were called by the Red Cross to a luncheon meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt here to discuss plans for the promotion.

James M. Cecil, president of Cecil and Presbrey, advertising agency, was toastmaster. He spoke of the $14,500,000 raised in New York for the last campaign and gave credit to the trade press for its part in that drive.

Reminding that this year's goal is $22,500,000, Cecil urged that February be developed as a "cultivation period," for encouraging team captains within the film industry.

Mrs. Henry R. Breckenridge, in charge of Red Cross advertising, appealed to advertisers to give space to the campaign and or include Red Cross messages in regular ads. Elliott L. Lee, executive vice-chairman of the commerce and industry committee, pointed out that the 360 business teams in New York last year raised $9,500,000. Their present quota is $17,500,000.

Film Stars in London

LONDON, Jan. 6.—Carole Landis and George Raft, film stars, arrived in Great Britain today, where they will join the USO in entertaining American troops stationed here.

WITH CERTAINTY

ON MANY FRONTS where vital pictures are made without rehearsal, the cameramen have utmost confidence in the unvarying high quality of Eastman films. This certainty is built on a half century of unexcelled performance. Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., ***Distributors***
Fort Lee Chicago Hollywood

EASTMAN FILMS

Rank Rumored Cool To Kelly Proposals

(*Continued from page* 1)

Fox in a permanent association with the various Rank companies. The method and the proposal are not clear.

Meanwhile, Kelly has confirmed a cable published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Wednesday that he had been conferring with Rank, with whom he expects to hold additional meetings. He adds he is seeking distribution of the much-discussed "Colonel Blimp," for which he prophesies a $3,000,000 gross.

Reflecting various inside and under cover film corporate moves today, there were further rises in film issue shares.

SAG Decries Unions' Stand on 'Canteen'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—The following statement was issued here by the Screen Actors Guild to the Hollywood Canteen in inviting it to send representatives to a SAG board meeting on next Monday to argue its action in demanding full compensation for the participation of players in Warners' production of "Hollywood Canteen."

"SAG feels that reopening of the question has resulted in an unfortunate tendency to pit the guilds and unions against each other. The guild's stand is that it will not permit price slashing and feels confident that if other guilds and unions analyze the problem in terms of what it really is—a SAG-employer controversy — they will support SAG's stand."

Warners Denies SAG Charges

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Warners tonight issued a statement categorically denying accusations of the SAG regarding employment of outside talent for "Hollywood Canteen," demanded a public apology from the Guild, and suggested that "SAG abide by its basic agreement without interjecting new, unwarranted, opportunistic interpretations of its rules."

New Department Set To Promote 'Lady'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Paramount's studio publicity director George Brown has set up a new department to promote the premiere of "Lady in the Dark" at the Hollywood Paramount Theatre Feb. 9. John Woolfenden and Idwal Jones will be in charge of special features locally, and Rufus Blair will handle out-of-town angles.

Others engaged in the promotion are Bill Blowitz, Harry Niemeyer and Fenton Gresser. The women's angle is being handled by Lindsay Durand and Virginia Bliss, while Sam Vorzimer will concentrate on special tie-ups and exploitation. Martin Lewis and Maurice Zimm have been assigned to the radio campaign.

SALESMAN WANTED

Experienced salesman for well known motion picture requiring special exploitation. Exceptional grosses wherever played. Entire domestic territory available. Liberal commission and expense account. References required. Box 225, MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Balaban and Zukor Sure Of Future for Industry

(*Continued from page* 1)

the past, he made these capsule observations:

"The last 32 years have seen this industry grow from immaturity to a maturity which augurs well for its future. I well remember in those early days how some of the industry's leaders of that time were hesitant and uncertain about the years to come. I think I may well say I had the vision and the courage to see what was ahead. Events have proven whether I was correct or otherwise. I think I was correct."

In bridging the years and observing today and tomorrow, the veteran executive made these observations:

Films Part in War

"It is of great satisfaction to me to note how the industry is playing such an important part in the war. We were not equipped for any like measure of service during the World War. But in this one, we have grown to that point where, visually and optically, we are a force with which to be reckoned.

"It is my opinion the industry, however, cannot retain the full extent of its current levels in the reconstruction period following the war, but that we shall retain at least 25 per cent of the abnormality which now exists. It should surprise no one if he realizes that, in the post-war period, business will not enjoy its current levels. I do not think it will.

Time for Caution

"Consequently, I view today as the time in which to exercise caution. The caution should prevail all along the line. No company should commit itself in any direction beyond the boundaries of its current resources. It is not wise to build on borrowed money because borrowed money some day has to be returned. If the industry has the good sense to exercise and employ conservative business practices there need be no speculations and no fears about the post-war period.

"We are now an adult industry. Technicians and creators certainly have made notable advances since 32 years ago. Today, as an industry, we create the kind of attractions which appeal to audiences of all ages. Because the appeal has rolled back the boundaries of the audience's years, we have attracted the kind of patronage we have never had before. I think we are going to retain it.

"Insofar as competition from abroad after the war is concerned, it leaves me completely undisturbed. Competition is good, because it is healthful."

Zukor leaves for Tucson and Hollywood in about two weeks. He expects to remain in the West about six weeks.

(*Continued from page* 1)

tries, motion pictures do not face serious post-war problems."

"There are two basic reasons for this fortunate position," he said. "In the first place, the business of making motion picture entertainment is of necessity a matter of almost day-to-day planning in order to meet the ever-shifting trends of public demand. The industry is accustomed to rapid changes and always is ready to meet the need for a new type of product. I am confident that our writers and production brains will meet new challenges as they have met all changes in world thinking in the past 25 years," Balaban declared.

No Re-Tooling Problem

"Secondly," he continued, "the industry faces no problem of peacetime re-tooling or over-expansion. While the war has expanded other industries, it brought numerous restrictions to the industry and, consequently, there has been no over expansion. Technical improvements which have been developed under the stress of war will be most beneficial to us when they can be applied under peacetime conditions. Television, with its cathode ray, so essential to radar, is one instance of what I have in mind. While we have been making pictures for war-time audiences, we have been building a back log of ideas for films to be produced when peace comes.

"We have given a large percentage of our technicians, actors, writers and directors to the armed services, but we have adjusted ourselves to meet this shortage of manpower. With expanded world markets open after the war we shall be able to absorb all of these trained men and women when they return," Balaban asserted.

Will Need Manpower

"The expansion of our foreign markets will make it necessary for us to add additional post-war manpower as salesmen and distributors. It is here that we face one of our gravest peacetime responsibilities. Our representatives in the liberated countries should be not only able salesmen and experienced distributors; they must represent America at its best. Our motion pictures must be equally representative of the highest American ideals.

"We know from our pre-war experience the enormous power of the motion picture. Although the basic mission of the photoplay is and always will be to provide entertainment, it is our duty and our obligation to make this entertainment truly representative of American life, American morals and American ideals," he concluded.

Mrs. Robert North Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Mrs. Robert North, wife of the Republic producer, died here today at her home, following a lengthy illness. Services will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Monday.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Capt. Edmund North, and a daughter, Mrs. E. J. Altman, of San Antonio, Texas.

Wilson Buys Two Films

Maurice Wilson, who had acquired the assets of Grand National Film Corp., of England, and is now functioning as an independent distributing organization, has acquired from Film Classics the re-issue rights for the United Kingdom of "Beauhunks" and "Sons of the Desert," both starring Laurel and Hardy.

Coast Flashes

SIGNALLING the opening of the industry's 4th War Loan campaign, the Liberty ship S.S. *Carole Lombard* will be launched at noon Jan. 15, at Cal Shipyard, San Pedro.

•

RKO has borrowed Dorothy Guire and Alan Marshall to star in "I Married the Navy," original by Emmet Lavery, who will co-produce with Val Lewton, Richard Wallace directing.

•

PRC has signed Frank Craven to write an original screenplay for and star in "When the Lights Go On Again," the title from the song hit.

•

Columbia today gave Victor Saville a new contract; he will produce and direct one, and produce others.

•

Mary Pickford will leave here tomorrow for New York for a four- to six-weeks' business stay.

Warners Reports $8,238,483 Profit

(*Continued from page* 1)

tercompany transactions was $131,825,540, compared with $119,271,544 in the preceding year.

"During the past year the British and Australian governments removed the principal limitations on remittances to the U. S. arising from the distribution of American films in those countries," said a company statement yesterday. "In view of this and inasmuch as the company had previously written off its net investment in enemy controlled countries, no provision for contingencies in respect of foreign assets was required for the past year." For the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1942, a provision of $825,000 had been made in connection with such foreign assets.

Canada Again Eases Ad Accessories Ban

(*Continued from page* 1)

ed in Canada but accessories can be imported from the U. S. for permanet billboard locations, but it is anticipated this source will be curtailed because of Washington restrictions.

Exhibitors here will also be allowed the use of photographic stills, when available, in window displays if no new printed matter is involved. Printed monthly theatre schedules with or without cooperative advertising have been classed as periodical publications by the administrator and can be distributed by mail or at the theatre.

Seadler Heads Publicity Group

(*Continued from page* 1)

mittee membership is rotated to the chairmanship every six months.

The first meeting under Seadler's chairmanship will be held next Thursday, with representatives of the Special Services Division of the Army and publicity heads of film company foreign departments discussing distribution of films overseas to our armed forces.



WHAT! ANOTHER WAR LOAN DRIVE!

Yes—from Jan. 18th to Feb. 15th and
It's the toughest job Uncle Sam has
Ever asked us to do. He says:
"Sell a Bond For Every Theatre Seat in America!"
It's not easy! But neither is it easy
When kids—just kids—die in agony
On the beaches at Tarawa!
The 4th War Loan is only a few weeks away—
Fourteen Billion is the goal!
The voice of the dead is a challenge
To us who live in safety, comfort and plenty.
Let's answer the challenge with grateful hearts—
There's a job ahead—
We in film business are proud to do it!
We're coming, lads—

"LET'S ALL BACK THE ATTACK!"

War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, New York City

See Pages 6 and 7 of the 4th War Loan Campaign Book for HONORED HUNDRED EXHIBITORS' AWARD CONTEST!

Restrictions Agreed to in New Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

would be accorded Government consideration unless they worked out formulas meeting this prerequisite.

Confronted by this situation and facing the alternative of fighting Justice Department moves looking toward theatre divorcement, the producer-exhibitor companies, therefore, have refunnelled their thinking into the channels outlined. Each of the five is prepared to forego the looseness of the Paragraph 4, Section XI of the defunct decree which allowed it to acquire theatres or interests in theatres "to protect its investment or its competitive position or for ordinary purposes of its business."

Expansion will be possible, but it will be difficult. Under the three-year trial period of the original consent, it was possible to annex new theatre properties by fitting the annexations, with reasons, into the broad limitations of Section XI. The proposed plan, however, would make it considerably more difficult to establish such premises, although it can be done dependent upon conditions governing situations.

Substantial and rivet-like proof, however, will have to be produced to support such circuit petitions before permission from Federal authorities will be forthcoming. Although the application of the yardstick will be identical in the instance of producer circuits and independent circuits, the unwritten, but clear, implications dictate the restrictions undoubtedly are aimed at the former.

While a "show-the-court" attitude is indicated clearly insofar as circuits will be concerned, conversely varying degrees of leniency appear to be in the Government's mind insofar as independents are concerned. Thus, there enters into the probable picture of the future a situation under which independents will be freer agents in their operations than the circuits. This fits into the desires of the Department of Justice.

The scheme provides for the exhibitor to cancel out 20 per cent of any group where the average rental ranges up to and including $100 and 10 per cent of any group where the average rental ranges from $101 to $200 per picture. The additional five per cent is designed to apply to blocks composed of attractions with an average rental beyond $200. The third phase, on the inside, is viewed as "looking good," but not meaning much because the rental is beyond the reach of the small exhibitor. This is construed as transporting the concession into the area of the theatre operator with bigger buying power who, sales managers constantly maintain, never has any trouble maintaining his buying position with distributors.

The whole intent, in the Government's view, is to re-phrase the language of any new decree into more definitive terms. It is the intention, therefore, to tighten procedures by tightening phraseology and to eliminate or reduce past uncertainties by making more language more specific. This ideology, of course, is not new to the negotiating companies and their principals.

On the record of future procedure, of course, continues Tom Clark's intention to discuss distributor proposals with exhibitor organizations before arriving at any conclusions committing the Department of Justice to final acceptance.

Enlisting All Theatre Help for War Bond Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

and booths in the many odd spots around a theatre usable for displays.

Minneapolis Plans Made At Luncheon

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 6.—Plans for the participation of the Northwest theatres division of the WAC in the 4th War Loan Drive were outlined before exhibitors, zone chairmen, distributors, bookers and salesmen at a luncheon meeting this week in the Nicollet Hotel. Guests included 20th-Fox news cameraman Jack Barnett, sent home after being twice wounded in action; Capt. Richard Bong, 21-plane South Pacific Army air ace, and Brig. Gen. Harold E. Wood, executive vice-chairman of the Minnesota War Finance Committee.

Plans to sell a bond for every theatre seat were outlined by John J. Friedl, WAC theatre chairman in the district.

12 Stars Will Aid With Transcriptions

Twelve top film stars have been selected by the Hollywood Victory Committee for a series of 15-minute transcript broadcasts to be distributed through 900 independent radio stations as a means of getting across the 4th War Loan message. It will be part of the "Treasury Star Parade."

First on the schedule are Dinah Shore, Ginny Simms and Gracie Fields with two programs each, and Frances Langford, Roy Rogers and Charles Laughton, with one each. Jim Newell will appear with Laughton.

Exhibitors Asked Not To Neglect Large Bonds

Exhibitors were cautioned by Charles P. Skouras, national industry chairman of the Fourth War Loan drive, yesterday not to be overzealous in their sale of bonds and issue a number of lower denomination when they can sell a larger bond equivalent to the smaller ones. Skouras stressed that, although the task of exhibitors is to make individual sales of "E," "F," and "G" bonds, with concentration on the "E" denomination, "F" and "G" sales should not be neglected.

N. Y. 'Free Movie Day' Has Been Postponed

"Free Movie Day" in New York, originally set for Jan. 18, when it would have coincided with the opening of the 4th War Loan Drive, has been postponed until early February, according to Robert Wolff, WAC distributor chairman for the Metropolitan area. It was found that many theatres had already planned rallies and other activities to launch the campaign.

Arbitration Stops While Decree Pends

(*Continued from page* 1)

also nearing a cleared state, with about 40 cases still pending hearing or awaiting an arbitrator's award. The Appeal Board here has five cases under consideration.

Leases on tribunal offices are being renewed meanwhile by the AAA for one-year terms on the recommndation of Joseph Hazen, distributor representative on the administrative committee for the motion picture system. Many of the leases expired Jan. 1. The committee authorized renewal and continued operation from contingency funds provided in the 1943 budget. The committee will not meet to set a new budget for 1944 until the Department of Justice and attorneys for the companies reach agreement on a new decree.

In a few cities where the film tribunals share offices with Chambers of Commerce or other organizations the arrangement is being continued on a month-to-month basis pending settlement of the decree.

Republic Meet Opens in Chicago

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—First session of the second of Republic's series of sales meetings opens today at the Drake Hotel with Republic president James R. Grainger presiding. Another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Today's agenda includes announcement of additional openings of "The Fighting SeaBees," as well as its promotion plans. Pre-release showings are now scheduled for Los Angeles, Jan. 20; Utica, Jan. 27, and Salt Lake City, Feb. 1. Advertising and publicity campaigns for other productions, for which the company recently appropriated $2,000,000, is another subject slated for discussion.

The delegation from the Midwestern district, headed by district sales manager Edward Walton, includes branch managers Will Baker, Chicago; William Feld, Des Moines; J. G. Frackman, Milwaukee; W. M. Grant, Minneapolis; Harry Lefholtz, Omaha; Nat Steinberg, St. Louis; and franchise holder Robert F. Withers, Kansas City.

Merritt Davis, Southern district sales manager, heads a contingent from his area, including branch managers Winfield Snelson, Atlanta; Harold Laird, Tampa; J. H. Dillon, Charlotte; L. V. Seicshnaydre, New Orleans; N. J. Colquhoun, Memphis; Lloyd Rust, Dallas; and Glen Alt, Oklahoma City.

Francis Bateman, western district sales manager, will represent the Coast. William Saal and Walter L. Titus, Jr., are attending from New York.

Kansas City Gives 'Cheer' Big $26,000

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 6.—With anestimated $26,000 gross at the Midland "Thousands Cheer" is leading first runs here. "The Gang's All Here" is winning an estimated $21,000 at three theatres, the Esquire, Uptown and Fairway.

Estimated receipts for the ending Jan. 5-6:

"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $8,600. (Average, $5,500)

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average, $14,000)

"Riding High" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average, $11,000)

"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average, $10,000)

"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage: Smiley Burnette and Jone Strauch, D'Artega and orchestra. Gross: $14,000. (Average, $9,400)

"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average, $5,600)

"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average, $1,450)

"Crazy House" Goes $7,000 Over Par

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 6.—Box-offices here hit a healthy stride this week. "Crazy House," coupled with a stage show, is heading for a $19,000 gross at the Orpheum Theatre.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 8:

"Riding High" (Para.)
WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,500. (Average, $2,300)

"The Heat's On" (Col.)
GOPHER—(998) (35c) 7 days. Gross: $4,100. (Average, $3,500)

"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,200. (Average, $7,000)

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average, $12,000)

"Crazy House" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,800) (45c-60c) 7 days. On stage: Art Kassel orchestra, Howard Nicholas, Steve Evans. Gross: $19,000. (Average, $12,000)

"Lady Takes a Chance" (RKO)
LYRIC—(1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,800. (Average, $5,200)

"The Mad Ghoul" (Univ.) 4 days
"So's Your Uncle" (Univ.) 4 days
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with a mid-week change. Gross: $2,800. (Average, $2,500)

Baby Beauty Contest

In conjunction with the 4th War Loan Drive RKO will award $5,000 in bonds to winners of a "Baby Beauty" bond contest in its theatres throughout Greater New York and Westchester between Jan. 18 and Feb. 15. Votes will be obtained through bond purchases.

Saxton First in 'Honored Hundred'

To William K. Saxton of Loew's Century Theatre, Baltimore, goes the distinction of being the first manager to send in entry blank to 4th War Loan campaign headquarters of the industry in New York, it was announced yesterday by national chairman Charles P. Skouras.

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DO NOT REMOVE

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 6 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1944 TEN CENTS

PRODUCTION HALT SEEN IN IBEW STRIKE

Tax No. 1 Item At Reopening Of Congress

Move to Treble Admission Levy Not Anticipated

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9. — Congress will return to Washington tomorrow to take up major issues which it dropped for the holiday recess, including higher admission and other taxes, subsidies, wages and price ceilings, representing various phases of the Administration's anti-inflation policy.

For the film industry attention will focus on the tax bill, carrying proposals to double the present levy on admissions, soon to be called up in the Senate for consideration. As presented tonight, the only argument between Senate and House is whether the rate shall be 1 cent on each 5 cents paid for admissions, as proposed by the former's Finance Committee, or 2 cents on each 10, as approved by the latter.

A final effort may be made on the

(*Continued on page 8*)

13,453,250 Bond Blanks to Theatres

Some 16,905 theatres in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii will this week receive from the Treasury Department 13,453,250 bond application blanks prepared especially for their use during the 4th War Loan Drive.

Showmen will be ready to begin selling bonds simultaneously at the opening of the industry's campaign Tuesday, Jan. 18, as a result of arrangements for speeding the blanks by Claude Lee, motion picture liaison with the Treasury.

Tri-State Meet Today On Bonds and 'Dimes'

DALLAS, Jan. 9.—The War Activities Committee of Texas and the Va-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Kalmenson, Moray To Confer on Coast

Ben Kalmenson, Warner Bros. general sales manager, now touring the South and Southwest, will continue to the Coast for studio conferences with Jack L. Warner, executive producer, and Charles Einfeld, director of advertising and publicity.

Norman H. Moray, short subject sales manager, who left New York last week for the South, will also go to the Coast for studio talks.

Heavy Building in South and Central Americas, Says Daff

"Considerable theatre construction is going on in Central and South America and plans are afoot for the construction of many new first-runs in the post-war," Alfred E. Daff, Universal's foreign sales supervisor, declared in an interview here at the week-end. Daff returned late last week from three months in Central and South America.



Alfred E. Daff

"As long as Hollywood produces good pictures, American film companies need not worry about those American markets," Daff declared. "Spanish films definitely have their place in those mar-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Seattle Workers Set Walkout for Jan. 14

SEATTLE, Jan. 9. — Film exchange employes of Local B-21 here, whose request for a wage increase is said to have been ignored by distributors, has advised them of a walkout to take place on Jan. 14.

The union had previously threatened a strike before New Year's but it was delayed.

Gov't Weighs Film Imports for U. S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Plans for a quick and tremendous stepping-up of our imports of strategic materials for which we must depend upon foreign sources, such as rubber, tin, etc., as well as of commodities of peace-time character which Europe can produce, possibly including motion pictures, are under consideration in various quarters of the Government.

The State Department is understood to have carried its planning to the point where figures on the quantities of various items are being plotted.

In addition to purchasing for security purposes, the Department has been reported studying the possibilities of other imports which, with the strategic materials, will serve partly to balance the tremendous exports this nation must make to get the world back on a peace-time basis and for reconstruction of war-torn countries.

How much motion pictures could could contribute toward this objective has not been disclosed, but it is probable much would depend upon the acceptability of the foreign features. Fay Allport of the Hays office has had frequent meetings recently with State Department officials to discuss foreign matters.

Vote of 308 to 63 Favors Walkout in West Coast Studios

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 9.—Workers of Local 40 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in studios, operating under the basic agreement, voted 308 to 63 at the weekend in favor of a strike, in balloting held under the supervision of the National Labor Relations Board as prescribed in National War Labor regulations.

A strike of electricians would close studios and bring production to a halt. However, in view of the fact that many, if not all, studios are making Government films for the war effort Federal intervention could be injected to keep at least Army, Navy and other Governmental filming moving.

Notification for the strike vote was

(*Continued on page 8*)

Republic Plans to Enlarge Sales Staff

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Herbert J. Yates and James R. Grainger, president of Republic, announced at the Southern and Midwest regional convention at the Hotel Drake at the weekend here, that they would appoint four new district managers from within the or-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Films Will Benefit from Gov't. Commerce Program

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Motion picture companies and other foreign traders of the United States can look forward to intensified foreign market efforts on their behalf for immediate and post-war development, by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the U. S., Department of Commerce.

Amos E. Taylor, director of the bureau, declares here that, "As their representative in Government this bureau is deeply conscious of the war-time difficulties that have beset exporters and importers since Pearl Harbor"; film exporters and importers are included.

Considerable potential value to the film industry in its pre-post-war planning for re-entry into foreign markets is seen in Taylor's Governmental

(*Continued on page 3*)

Industry Praised by Army, Navy Officials

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9. — A thousand members of the Southern California Army-Navy war conference, headed by undersecretaries of the Navy and War, James V. Forrestal, Robert P. Patterson, Admiral William Halsey, General Henry H. Arnold, Lieut-Gen. William S. Knudsen and other ranking Navy, Army and Marine officers, were entertained here at the Warner Bros. war conference dinner at the weekend.

All the officials paid high tribute to the industry's share in the war effort. Admiral Halsey told MOTION PICTURE DAILY: "This industry has done more for our boys, our training methods, our battle for victory, than any other single civilian group."

Hazen To See Clark On Decree Today

Joseph Hazen, Warner Bros. general counsel and liaison for the five consent decree companies is expected to deliver the revised draft of the decree to Tom C. Clark, Assistant U. S. Attorney General, in Washington today.

While the completed document was being rushed at the weekend by printers, representatives of the decree signatories were meeting here on matters concerning Hazen's resumed discussions with Clark.

Personal Mention

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK will return tomorrow from a Miami vacation.

•

G. RALPH BRANTON, Tri-States circuit business manager, and MRS. BRANTON, have announced the engagement of their daughter, KATHERINE ANNE, to ENSIGN VINCENT M. FENNELLY.

•

ARTHUR HORNBLOW, JR., M-G-M producer; ERIK CHARELL, director-producer; and GUY BOLTON, playwright-scenarist, left at the weekend to return to the West Coast.

•

SID BROD, production manager for William Cagney Productions and Producing Artists, Inc., has returned to Hollywood after two weeks here.

•

LILLIAN MILLER, secretary to CLAUDE LEE, director of public relations at the Paramount home office, celebrated a birthday Saturday.

•

G. R. KEYSER, foreign advertising-publicity manager for Warners, will leave today for a two-week trip to the company's branch in Havana.

•

BEN MELNIKER and STANLEY C. THOMPSON of M-G-M's legal department, will return today from Hartford where they spent several days.

•

WILLIAM SAAL, special assistant to H. J. YATES, SR., will return to New York today after attending Republic's conference in Chicago.

•

KAY KAMEN, merchandise representative for Walt Disney, left here over the weekend for Chicago on a week's business trip.

•

JOHN JONES, Midwest franchise holder for Film Classics, was in New York from Chicago over the weekend.

•

JACK FLYNN, M-G-M Western sales manager, arrived in Chicago Saturday from New York.

•

JOEL LEVY, Loew's out-of-town booker, will leave here Wednesday for a trip through the South.

•

ARTHUR LYONS, vice-president of Producing Artists, Inc., will leave here today for Hollywood.

•

WALTER GOULD and MRS. GOULD celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary over the weekend.

•

PHIL ENGEL, United Artists' New England representative, left late last week for Buffalo.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS and TOM CONNORS left yesterday for Philadelphia.

•

LIEUT.-COL. HAL ROACH has returned to Washington after a few days here.

Tradewise...

By SHERWIN KANE

ONE of the most interesting phenomena having to do with the status of the motion picture in the public mind is the contempt in which it is held by many literate men and women who take their dramatic art seriously. Speaking, or writing, rather, for these good people is practically the entire craft of drama criticism and no small part of the film reviewers, most of whom, of course, aspire to be drama critics. Drama critics, by the way, aspire to be essayists.

The most familiar form in which this contempt for the film is expressed is, of course, an arbitrary measuring of the motion picture alongside the drama, with all of the measurements, to be sure, decidedly proving the drama to possess the true contours of Art with a capital A, and those of the motion picture demonstrating it to be the ugly interloper with pretensions of being at the very least a half-sister to the beauteous one of the drama.

• •

It seems that in the matching-up process, no one bothers to compare specific plays with specific films. The comparison always is institutional: the stage vs. the motion picture. And it is apparent that your film detractors are not confining themselves in their comparison to the contemporary stage. When they speak of "dramatic artistry" they are calling upon the whole history of the drama, at least as far back as ancient Greece, and ringing in all the potency of the world's great playwrights whether they worked with stylus and papyrus or quill and parchment, to lend their prestige to the argument. It appears that their zeal is not so much designed to impress the multitudes who never experience the theatre's offerings with the fact that drama is an Art, as it is to rebuke those few misguided souls who may be on the brink of admitting the motion picture, too, to the world of Art with a capital A.

• •

This, of course, makes for pretty much of a one-sided argument. The motion picture did not become public property until after the turn of this century. A man who has been "in the picture business" 30 years is referred to as a pioneer. How many geniuses have come to the fore in the stage world in that time? How many deathless pieces of Art have been put on the boards in the past three decades, and what proportion are they to the abundance of trash and seasonal hits and flops that make up the bulk of every Broadway season? And despite the vast, rich heritage of the drama which should give character and flavor and polish to the things of the stage, which the rootless motion picture does not have, just how do these master works of the stage's past 30 years compare numerically with the best achievements of the screen?

• •

That is the only fair basis on which to compare, if comparison there must be, the two art forms. It must not be overlooked, either, that at just the time that the screen was attaining mastery of its original, silent form, sound and color were introduced to begin, hardly more than 15 years ago, a revolutionary new production era for the medium. It is not without reason that the champions of the screen view it as the dramatic art of the future. And the stage will live, too, because its past is deathless. But there is nothing in its modern history to suggest that it will ever approximate its past.

• •

That is the thing that the literati fear, and being sentimentalists they fight it with their contempt of the new form.

They will tell you, as Richard Watts, Jr., recently told his New York *Herald-Tribune* readers, that the screen is "an imitative dramatic medium of inferior merit" which assaults a more important one in capturing the stage's artists. Thus, you are inferior to the stage, but if you aspire to the best in the stage you are imitative and a thug.

The fundamental mistake of a "films vs. stage debate" is that it does not recognize that the two are separate media even though they are both of the theatre. There is no more basis for expecting the screen to be the equivalent of the stage than there is for urging the Coca-Cola people to start making champagne while the mass demand continues to be for "cokes."

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 9.

FRED S. MEYER, 20th-Fox executive, has been appointed active chairman of the industry's 1944 infantile paralysis drive by Joseph Schenck.

•

Chairman Louis B. Mayer of the industry's committee in charge of launching the S.S. *Carole Lombard*, has announced Irene Dunne as sponsor of the ceremonies on Jan. 15. The committee consists of Y. Frank Freeman, James Cagney, Mary McCall, Jr., Ken Thomson, Mark Sandrich and William Keith as representative for Charles Skouras.

•

Jess Willard brought suit against 20th-Fox in Superior Court here at the weekend over use of the films of the Willard-Dempsey fight in "The Great American Broadcast." He asks an accounting of profits on which the Court can base a reasonable judgment.

•

M-G-M has added "Hot Time in the Old Town," to Arthur Freed's production schedule. Jack McGowan will write the script.

•

Rufus Lemaire has joined 20th-Fox as executive talent director; he was formerly with M-G-M and Paramount.

•

Joseph Pasternak has left here for the East to attend M-G-M home office conferences.

20th-Fox Banquet For Chicago Owners

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Exhibitor leaders John Balaban, Jack Kirsch and Lou Reinheimer paid tribute to 20th-Fox branch manager Tom Gilliam at the banquet at the weekend given to exhibitors for their support in the recent 20th-Fox sales drive. The occasion marked the first time in 35 years that the Chicago office has won an international company sales campaign. Balaban credited the victory to Gilliam.

The banquet, held in the Blackstone Hotel, was attended by 175 circuit and independent exhibitors. Jack Barnett, 20th-Fox Movietone correspondent, who recently returned from the battlefields of Europe, told of his experiences there.

Steele To Assist Schlager at PCA

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—Joseph Steele has been appointed executive assistant to Sid Schlager, president of Producers Corp. of America, Ben A. Englander, PCA vice-president announced here over the week-end.

Steele, who formerly held production posts with Paramount, M-G-M and RKO, will assist Schlager in executing PCA's five-picture commitment to United Artists.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign: single copies, 10c.

Schenck Sells 3,000 Loew Shares

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 9.—Tradings of film corporation officers and directors in the securities of their own companies in November was light, with only a few transactions of any size, the Securities and Exchange Commission reported here yesterday.

The heaviest film stock transfer reported was the sale of 3,000 shares of Loew's common by Nicholas M. Schenck, president, leaving him with 7,517 shares. Schenck also filed a report for last May showing the purchase of 2,500 shares of Loew's common, which gave him a total of 10,517 shares and which was unchanged until the November sale.

The only other four-figure deal was the purchase of 1,000 shares of Trans-Lux Corp. common by James K. Ellis, San Antonio, giving him a total of 1,400 shares. In the same company, Robert L. Daine, New York, sold 500 shares of common, leaving him with 1,500 shares.

Columbia Report

A report on Columbia Pictures showed that Jack Cohn, vice-president, added to his holdings in three trusts, purchasing 100 shares of common to give the Joseph Cohn trust a total of 2,604 shares, 200 shares to give the Robert Cohn Trust 3,802 shares and 200 shares for a Jeannette Cohn trust, representing its entire portfolio. Abraham Schneider, treasurer, was shown to have disposed of 80 shares of Columbia common by gift, leaving him with 1,784 shares.

Other reports showed that Loew's acquired one share of Loew's Boston Theatres common, giving it 120,059 shares; W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram Pictures, purchased 200 shares of that company's common, increasing his interest to 15,771 shares, and Stanton Griffis, chairman of Paramount's executive committee, purchased 120 shares of Paramount common, giving him 6,000 shares.

Reports on the holdings of persons becoming officers or directors of registered corporations showed that Charles Warren Sharpe, New York, held no Columbia Pictures securities when he became a director last Jan. 20, while Sam Wolf, Los Angeles, held 3,417 shares of Monogram common when he became an officer of that company Oct. 20.

Midwest Exhibitors Double 'Dimes' Quota

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Over 100 exhibitors and circuit operators, meeting at the Hotel Blackstone here at the weekend, pledged their theatres to double 1943 March of Dimes collections.

Jack Kirsch of Allied Theatres introduced E. L. Alperson, of the Dimes "flying squadron," who reported on the drive. Harry Brandt and Oscar A. Doob also spoke. Representing circuits, independents and distributors were: John J. Friedl, C. B. Stiff, W. H. Workman, Harry Katz, Ken Collins, Don Rossiter, Marc Wolfe, Herbert Cohen, George F. Brietbach, Arthur D. Reynolds, John Balaban, Jack Kirsch, Jules Rubens, Tom Gillian, Lou Reinheimer, Charles Ryan, William K. Hollander and Nat Shulter.

The "flying squadron" addressed a meeting of New Orleans exhibitors yesterday.

Films Will Benefit from Gov't. Commerce Program

(*Continued from page 1*)

promise that, "Appreciable advances will be made in our projections into the post-war outlook for international commerce. These estimates," he added, "are designed to help private enterprise (including motion pictures) plan more intelligently for what we consider a prime necessity to a lasting peace—a robust and expanding American foreign trade. They will be made in answer to growing requests by both businessmen and Government for basic data on which to formulate individual reconversion programs."

The film industry has been a prominent subject of attention for years by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and is expected to be even more so in the future because of its frequently described importance as an aid to peace and the continuance of peace.

One of the bureau's studies, it was said, gives conclusive proof that a more stable and ample flow of dollars will be a necessity in future transactions of U. S. companies with those in other countries.

The bureau's release to private enterprise of much current foreign trade data is contingent, of course, upon wartime restrictions. "Foreign traders are assured, however, that the material is being kept up to date so far as is humanly possible and that there will be no delay in reporting it whenever conditions permit," Taylor said.

Special reports that will be released to American business as soon as completed include:

"Prospects for Foreign Trade of the British Empire After the War." The prospects are that if domestic economy functions at capacity levels British imports in the hypothetical post-war year will total about $6,300,000,000 and exports about $7,000,000,000. Another will be on "Currency Systems of Countries in Latin America."

"Imports into Far Eastern Countries" will show the principal pre-war imports of such countries from areas outside Japan's present control. "Commercial Standards" will translate American commercial standards in both Spanish and Portuguese.

Warner Zone Ad Men Meeting Here Today

Warner circuit zone advertising men will meet at the home office this morning for a screening of "In Our Time," following which a merchandising campaign will be developed at a meeting in the office of Harry Goldberg, advertising and publicity director.

Present will be Joseph Bernhard, general manager of theatres; Harry M. Kalmine, assistant general manager; Mort Blumenstock, in charge of advertising and publicity in the East, and zone men J. Knox Strachan, Cleveland; Dan Finn, New Haven; Robert Paskow, Newark; Charles Smakwitz, Albany; Irving Blumberg, Philadelphia; Jimmie Totman, Pittsburgh; Frank LaFalce, Washington, and Marcel Brazee, Milwaukee.

National trade showing of "In Our Time" will be held on Monday, Jan. 31.

Meet on Film Truck Breakdown Jan. 11

Meeting of the distributors' group designated by the War Activities Committee to assist New York film deliverers—facing a breakdown in delivery systems—to secure priorities for truck replacements in Washington, is understood to have been set for tomorrow. A full report on the situation has been prepared by Harry Grayson, attorney for the carriers.

The committee is headed by H. M. Richey, M-G-M director of exhibitor relations. Others are: Fred Schwartz, Century Circuit; Irving Dollinger, New Jersey exhibitor; Robert Wolff, RKO New York exchange manager, and Ralph Pielow, M-G-M New York branch manager.

Toscanini in OWI Film

Arturo Toscanini, conductor, who once refused an offer of $250,000 to appear in a Hollywood picture, has made a voluntary appearance as star in a filming of Verdi's "Hymn of the Nations," completed by the film bureau of the overseas division of the Office of War Information.

Republic Plans to Enlarge Sales Staff

(*Continued from page 1*)

ganization and also seven division publicity men.

They pointed out that with such Republic releases as "The Fighting SeaBees," "Man from Frisco," "The Monster" and "Brazil," publicity expansion was necessary. If the manpower resistance is too acute, they indicated, publicity men would be recruited from ad agencies and theatres.

Grainger said that the rapid growth of Republic would necessitate backing up the company's product with an expanded ad-publicity effort.

Through the cooperation of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, U. S. N., simultaneous receptions and previews will be held in New York City and Hollywood Monday, Jan. 17, to launch "SeaBees."

Prerelease openings of the film were announced for the Majestic in Dallas, Feb. 3; Uptown, Esquire and Fairway, Kansas City, day and date, Feb. 11, and the Riverside, Milwaukee, Feb. 11. It will open day and date at the Hollywood and Paramount Theatres, Hollywood and Los Angeles, respectively, on Jan. 27.

Sauter On Talent For Birthday Ball

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—James L. Sauter, United Theatrical War Activities head, has been appointed New York contact for the entertainment committee of the President's Birthday Celebration in Washington.

Sauter will represent in New York the Washington entertainment committee headed by Carter Barron, Loew's, and John Payette, Warner's, and will help the committee line up talent which will appear in Washington Jan. 28 and 29 for the annual celebration in behalf of the National Infantile Paralysis Fund. His appointment was announced by D. C. Commissioner J. Russell Young.

UIE to Meet Next With RKO's Mochrie

Robert Mochrie, RKO general sales manager, will meet sometime this week with the Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors film committee to discuss local exhibitor problems and certain RKO's sales policies relating to percentage pictures, film shortage, reissues and selling of shorts.

Last meeting, late last week, was with Neil Agnew, vice-president and general sales manager of Paramount, likewise on "problems" relating to some of Paramount's sales policy, particularly on percentage pictures, film shortage, reissues and the selling of shorts. The committee also asked for an adjustment of film rentals in accordance with the gross income and operating expenses of independent theatres. It is understood that Agnew assured them that their problems would be studied and results would be made known at a later meeting.

A similar meeting was held with W. F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president in charge of distribution, and another with Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager of Warner's. Other meetings are to be held with A. Montague, general sales manager of Columbia, and William A. Scully, Universal's general sales manager.

Russian Pictures Dubbed for U.S.

Artkino Pictures, Inc., New York, distributor of Soviet films in the United States, plans a wide public and promotional and ad campaign for dubbed English versions of Russian product that will be handled here this year.

At least six of 18 or more Soviet films to be released will have dubbed English voices, according to Nicholas Napoli, president of Artkino. The first, "No Greater Love," will open at the Victoria Theatre, New York, following the run of Samuel Goldwyn's "The North Star." Its premiere, scheduled for late this month, will be sponsored by the American Women's Volunteer Service.

Artkino believes that the dubbing will break down the language barrier that has prevented Russian films from getting wider distribution in the U. S.

Soviet film producers already have dubbed MGM's "Edison the Man" into 30 different languages, as well as the Disney-RKO film "Der Fuehrer's Face." They expect to dub other American films which were purchased last year by Leonid Antonov, former Soviet film representative who is now in London, and by Mikhail Kolotosov, his successor.

SAG in Answer to Warner Bros. Charges

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—The Screen Actors' Guild-Warner controversy over terms of employment of stars for "Hollywood Canteen" waxed warmer at the weekend when the Guild, asserted the studio had sought to obtain the services of 10 non-Warner stars for the picture at $2,500 each.

The statement said in part: "The Guild feels the inducement used was patriotism; that would be sufficient, were it not for the fact Warners' interest in the picture is profit."

THEY'RE AT THE SEVENTH POLL

AND PARAMOUN

In Radio Daily's 1943 Poll

14 RADIO AWARDS GO TO PARAMOUNT PERSONALITIES

(Far More Than Any Other Picture Company!)



BOB HOPE
Best Commercial Program . . . Best Comedian . . . One of 10 Best Entertainers.



BING CROSBY
Best Entertainer . . . Best Male Vocalist (Popular) . . . One of 10 Best Commercial Programs.



CECIL B. DE MILLE'S LUX RADIO THEATRE
Best Dramatic Show... One of 10 Best Commercial Programs.



ALDRICH FAMILY
(As played on the air by Dickie Jones, Jackie Kelk, Katherine Raht, House Jameson and Mary Rolfe).
One of 10 Best Dramatic Serials . . . One of 10 Best Dramatic Shows.



ED GARDNER
(Coming in Paramount's "Duffy's Tavern").
One of 10 Best Commercial Programs . . . One of 10 Best Entertainers . . . One of 10 Best Comedians.



MARY MARTIN
One of 10 Best Female Vocalists (Popular).



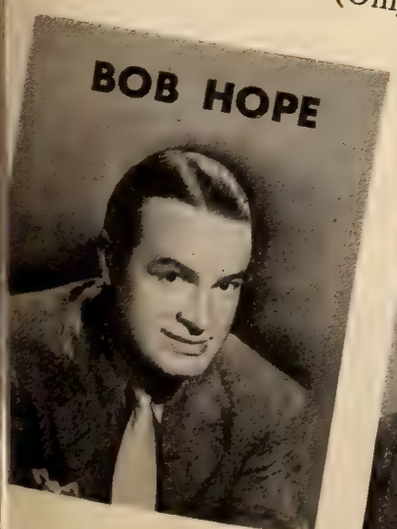
S WINNING IN A GALLOP

'Way Up At The Front In The First
Five Nationwide "Best" Lists For '43
—And Now Your Favorite Company
Scores Two More Great Triumphs—

In M. P. Herald's Exhibitor Poll

PARAMOUNT HAS 3 OF THE 10 TOP MONEY-MAKING STARS OF 1943

(Only One Other Company Had as Many)







And in Anybody's poll This is the Long-Run Champion of 1943

"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"

25th Week Matched the First at N. Y. Rivoli

Our two big jobs in January:
th War Loan and March of Di

F A

edited by Terry Ramsaye



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¶ The tenth annual edition of the international appraisal of talent values is off the press.

¶ The box office champions of 1943 presented with complete analysis and personnel credits—the money making stars of the season evaluated and reported upon by the exhibitor showmen of the world—the stars of tomorrow as picked by theatre men.

¶ The radio champions of 1943 as polled by MOTION PICTURE DAILY among the editors of the daily newspapers of America.

MORROW

Heavy Building in South and Central Americas, Says Daff

(Continued from page 1)

kets, but the people go to see good American films. Both are helping to bring more people to theatres," he added.

Daff revealed that the people of South and Central America prefer superimposed sub-titles on American films rather than dubbing into their own Portuguese or Spanish languages. "They like to hear the natural voices of popular American stars," he explained. Maria Montez is one of the most popular American stars, Daff said.

Four theatres are being built in Mexico City; the Opera, to have over 6,000 seats, will be one of the largest in the world. Three theatres are planned for Santiago, Chile. The Palacio, completely remodeled, in Rio de Janiero, opened Christmas.

Universal Expanding

Daff declared that Universal is expanding its sales forces in this market, to handle increased business. Not all of the company's films are released in the market, films being distributed on a selective basis, according to Daff.

Daff held a sales convention in Rio de Janiero for Brazilian representatives while he was there.

Daff revealed that the Soviet film agency, Artkino, has an office in Buenos Aires for the distribution of Russian films. He said that there are no German pictures now in circulation anywhere in South America and most German houses have been closed. "Censorship in Argentina is severe only when it involves neutrality," Daff declared. "The raw stock situation is tight in South and Central America," he added.

Daff explained that recent information received here by his foreign department placed the number of theatres in Russia at 30,000 with but 15,000 wired for sound.

McFaul Buys Theatre Buildings at $2,000,000

BUFFALO, Jan. 9.—The purchase of Shea's Buffalo and Hippodrome Theatres, a restaurant and 12 stores by Buffalo Theatres, Inc., in a deal involving more than $2,000,000, was announced here at the weekend by Vincent R. McFaul, president.

The properties were purchased by Buffalo Theatres, whose stock is wholly owned by McFaul, Paramount and Loew's, from the McNaughton Realty Co. The buildings have a frontage of approximately 1,000 feet on Main, Pearl and Court Streets.

Columbia Has Fight Reel

Columbia Pictures, through an arrangement with Madison Square Garden and the *New York Daily News*, will make a sports reel dealing with the amateur boxing bouts held annually at the Garden, under the sponsorship of the *News*. Henry Foster will direct and Bill Stern will narrate. Bill Murtah of the *Daily News* sports staff will give technical assistance. The subject will probably be released in February.

Theatres Urged Not To Absorb New Tax

New Haven, Jan. 9.—Maxwell Alderman, exective secretary of Allied Theatres of Connecticut, has issued a special bulletin urging theatre owners to absorb "not one penny" of the new forthcoming Federal admission tax "in view of possible further taxes later and the long war and rehabilitation periods."

13,453,250 Bond Blanks to Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

riety Club will be hosts at a luncheon for Texas exhibitors and distributors tomorrow at the Adolphus Hotel, honoring WAC 4th War Loan and March of Dimes officials.

In this group will be Charles Skouras, Frank H. Ricketson, Jr., Ned Depinet, S. H. Fabian and A. J. Krappman.

Harry Brandt, Eddie Alperson, Oscar Doob and Arthur Mayer will also be present in the interest of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Thursday Meeting to Set "Free Movie Day"

Selection of a date for the New York area's "Free Movie Day" in the 4th War Loan Drive heads the agenda of an exhibitor-distributor meeting to be held Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at War Activities Committee headquarters, here, according to Sam Rinzler, area co-chairman.

Chas. Sandblom Dies; Designed Theatres

Charles A. Sandblom, 65, architect who designed interiors throughout the country for William Fox theatres as well as those of the Rialto and Rivoli, New York, died at his home here at the weekend.

Sandblom, who was born in Sweden, came to the United States when young and specialized in theatre architecture. He is survived by three brothers, Gustav Sandblom, Larchmont, N. Y.; Dr. John Sandblom, Stockholm, and Dr. Gideon Sandblom, Los Angeles.

Heineman on Tour Of U. S. and Canada

William J. Heineman, general sales manager for Samuel Goldwyn, distributing through RKO, left here at the weekend for a three-month tour of the United States and Canada. This is Heineman's first all-inclusive key city trip since taking over his present post with Goldwyn. His itinerary will take him to 40 American and Canadian cities for conferences with exchange heads and principal exhibitors.

Bond Lunch Tomorrow

Irving Lesser of the Roxy Theatre has invited the trade press to a luncheon in the Blessed Event Room at the Stork Club tomorrow at one o'clock to give birth to ideas for the Fourth War Loan Drive.

IBEW Votes Strike In Studios on Coast

(Continued from page 1)

given the NLRB and the WLB when producers refused to comply with an IBEW request that its members receive a 10 per cent wage increase. Al Speede, business representative of the IBEW, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY, "We are entitled to it automatically under the studio basic agreement provision wherein our union was guaranteed the same wage increase granted any union outside of the basic agreement."

Producers claim that the agreement provided that if any wage increase in excess of 10 per cent was given any outside union, the IBEW would receive an increase equal to the difference.

Speede and Officials Confer

Speede and officials of other locals conferred at the weekend following a check of ballots by NLRB representative Arthur Haily.

A meeting of Local 40 of the IBEW will now either authorize a strike date or vote authority for officials to call a strike when they deem it advisable. Conferences of other AFL unions on strike procedure are scheduled, with special attention to be given to whether those unions will respect possible IBEW picket lines at the 10 studios involved, Speede said.

Tax Is No. 1 Item as Congress Reconvenes

(Continued from page 1)

Senate floor to put over the Treasury's proposal for a trebling of the tax, but such a move is not expected and is seen tonight as having little chance of success. However, it is probable that consideration of the bill will not be started until after President Roosevelt's annual and budget messages, in which he may have something to say about taxes are sent to Congress.

Neil Scott Named to Post at Columbia

Columbia's home office has engaged Neil Scott of Interstate United Newspapers, publishers' representatives, to act as consultant and advisor in connection with public relations. Scott was until recently labor columnist with the Pittsburgh *Courier*, Negro newspaper, and prior to that was with the New York *Amsterdam News*, and has been a frequent contributor to the Negro press as book reviewer and feature writer. He was also formerly an actor.

Gross Turns to Stage

Edward Gross, film producer, makes his debut as a Broadway stage producer with "Chicken Every Sunday," adapted by Julius and Philip G. Epstein, Hollywood scenarists. Marc Connelly, playwright, will direct, with Herman Bernstein, of Lindsay and Crouse, as general manager.

Parks to Cowan Unit

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—Jackson Parks who until recently was Mary Pickford's publicity representative here, moves over Jan. 17 to the Lester Cowan production unit.

'Tokyo' Gets $28,077 Over Par in L. A.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 9.—Grosses were up handsomely this week. "Destination Tokyo" singled in the three Warner first runs for a total of $[illegible] against a $52,010 par. "Tender Comrade" took $64,000 in the Pantages-Hillstreet tandem which averages $36,400.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 5:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $11,880).

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $21,500. (Average: $15,692).

"The North Star" (RKO)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,590).

"Seventh Victim" (RKO)
"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,865).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"The Falcon and the Co-Eds" (RKO)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $19,554).

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $23,577).

"The North Star" (RKO)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $14,354).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"The Falcon and the Co-Eds" (RKO)
PANTAGES—(2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $16,846).

"Riding High" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT (HOLLYWOOD)—(1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,115).

"Riding High" (Para.)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT (DOWNTOWN)—(3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $21,307).

"The North Star" (RKO)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,873).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $28,500. (Average: $27,967).

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
UPTOWN—(1,715) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $12,900. (Average: $10,318).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. (HOLLYWOOD)—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $30,694. (Average: $16,362).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. (DOWNTOWN)—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $26,113. (Average: 18,480).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. (WILTERN)—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $24,280. (Average: $17,168).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
FOX-WILSHIRE—(2,300) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $11,750.

Pin-Up Girl Contest

Prizes in War Bonds will be awarded to the winner and runners-up in a contest to select the 1944 "Pin-Up Girl" which Loew's 70 New York City in-town theatres will launch Feb. 15. Men in the armed forces will act as judges, and photos of the winner from each borough will be mailed to service men upon request.

SALESMAN WANTED

Experienced salesman for well known motion picture requiring special exploitation. Exceptional grosses wherever played. Entire domestic territory available. Liberal commission and expense account. References required. Box 225, MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 7 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1944 TEN CENTS

Tours of Film Stars Set in 4th War Loan

Will Visit Over 100 Key Cities in Two Weeks

Top film stars will tour once more over 100 key cities to stimulate sale of bonds for the Fourth War Loan, Charles P. Skouras, national chairman for the industry, announced yesterday.

Skouras announced that "all bonds sold by theatres since Jan. 1 and through Feb. 29 will be credited toward the industry's effort in behalf of the drive."

However, in judging the "Honored 100" contest, only those bonds sold between midnight, Jan. 17 through Feb. 15, and supported by special Treasury Department bond applications, will count in the competition.

The celebrity tours, organized by the Hollywood Victory Committee, aim to surpass the mark of $1,337,-

(*Continued on page 4*)

IBEW Coast Studio Strike Postponed

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—The threatened strike by Local 40, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, involving 500 studio workers employed in 10 local studios under the basic agreement will not materialize for two or three months; not then if the War Labor Board sets a hearing for the Union's dispute with producers over their alleged failure to grant IBEW an automatic wage increase of 10 per cent, as granted to machinists in May, 1942, Al Speede, IBEW representative, told MOTION

(*Continued on page 4*)

Warners Deny They Sought Outside Stars

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—Warners deny charges by the Screen Actors Guild that the studio sought to employ 10 non-Warner stars for "Hollywood Canteen" at $2,500 each. The controversy started when the SAG refused permission to some players to appear in the film under salary scales and Warners abandoned the film.

A statement by the studio declares that the film was budgeted at $1,550,-000, of which $179,086 was allocated

(*Continued on page 4*)

Grosses at B'way First-Run Houses Better than Average

Despite cold weather and the usual post-holiday slump, the majority of Broadway key houses playing pictures which are holdovers, are running up grosses this week which are better than average and are quite satisfactory. The first-run leader is the Radio City Music Hall with "Madame Curie" and a holiday stage show now in its fourth week. With $65,000 in the till for the first four days, the bill is expected to gross around $95,-000 and holds for a fifth week starting Thursday.

"Madame Curie" went over the $500,000 mark in paid attendance over the past week-end, and in holding for a fifth week it becomes the fifth M-G-M picture to play at least five weeks at the Hall according to M-G-M. Record-holder, "Random

(*Continued on page 4*)

Walt Disney 1943 Income Is $681,536

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 10.—Walt Disney Productions' financial statement covering the fiscal year ended Oct. 2, 1943, shows a net income of $681,-536 before provisions for losses on inventory, leaving $431,536 after such provisions. The latter figure compares with a loss of $191,069 during the preceding year.

The statement reveals that 94 per cent of the footage produced during

(*Continued on page 4*)

U.S. WARNS FILMS ON POPULATION SHIFTS

Majors Reportedly Acceding to Clark

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—The long-awaited final draft of the five large distributors' proposals for revision of the consent decree were put in the mails in New York today for transmission to the Department of Justice, Joseph Hazen, Warners' general counsel, reported to Assistant Attorney-General Tom C. Clark by telephone this afternoon. Hazen is legal liaison between Clark and the companies.

In the course of the conversation, Hazen is reported to have urged Clark to keep the contents of the document strictly confidential until a final conference has been held, the

(*Continued on page 4*)

Christenberry Again Heads B'way Group

Robert K. Christenberry, vice-president and general manager of the Hotel Astor, was reelected to his fourth term as president of the Broadway Association at the organization's 31st annual meeting at the Astor yesterday.

Among directors reelected were: Oscar A. Doob, advertising-publicity director of Loew's Theatres, and Max Cohen, president of the Cinema Circuit Corp., New York.

Predicts Broad Changes From Re-Shufflings When Peace Comes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—The industry may have to go through broad changes after the war, more or less in reverse of those experienced during the past three years as a result of shifts in population created by the war effort, it is warned here by Dr. Philip M. Hauser, assistant director of the Census Bureau.

Dr. Hauser already has listed 137 areas which he believes will experience big post-war population shifts, but there are many times that number of areas which will be affected in lesser degree, many of them by the return of former residents who now are engaged in war work in other communities.

Exhibitors in all of these areas will find their fortunes rising or falling in conformity with those of the community as a whole, he said. Where

(*Continued on page 2*)

Siegel Resigns as Production Chief

M. J. Siegel, president of Republic Productions for the past seven years, has resigned that post, it was announced by the home office yesterday. His resignation has been accepted by Herbert J. Yates, Sr., who is now in Hollywood, and who will announce a successor soon, a statement said.

Siegel has been in the industry since

(*Continued on page 4*)

Industry's "Dimes" Effort Commended by Roosevelt

The industry's part in the 1944 March of Dimes campaign, Jan. 24-31, was praised highly by President Roosevelt in a communication received yesterday by the motion picture theatres committee on the drive, which will again be in charge of Nicholas Schenck.

Said the President, "Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, told me of some of the many things you are doing in the motion picture industry's 1944 March of Dimes drive, which means so much in the fight against infantile paralysis.

"I was anything but unaware of the time and effort a cause like this

(*Continued on page 4*)

Arthur Silverstone Leaves for London

Arthur Silverstone, 20th-Fox international department home office executive, left last night for London on company business. He took a print of "The Song of Bernadette" with him.

Prior to his departure, Silverstone was tendered a luncheon at the Hotel St. Moritz. Among those present from 20th-Fox were Murray Silverstone, Irving Maas, J. C. Bavetta, S. S. Horen, William Morgan, Leslie F. Whelan, F. S. Irby, Albert Cornfield, Mario Luporini, Louis Kanturek, Arthur Stromberg, Marion Kley and Robert A. Kreier.

London Hears Rank, U.A. Explore Deals

London, Jan. 10.—As conferences between J. Arthur Rank and Arthur W. Kelly, United Artists foreign department head, continued here today it was reported in the trade that two avenues of collaboration are being explored. The first involves the acquisition by Rank of an interest in United Artists and the second, cooperation by that company with any American organization which might eventually be established by Rank, according to the trade reports.

Personal Mention

SI FABIAN returned yesterday from Buffalo where he attended an exhibitor meeting on the Fourth War Loan Drive.

•

BERNARD LEVY, manager of Proven Pictures and Hartford district manager of Liebermann Theatres, was married Sunday to ALICE SAYKIN at the Temple Beth El in Springfield, Mass.

•

RICHARD F. MURRAY, business manager of Paramount short subjects department, and SAM BUCHWALD, general manager of Famous Studios, have left for the Coast.

•

CAPT. LOUIS GORDON, co-owner of Lockwood & Gordon Theatres in Connecticut, is now in the Army in the Boston area.

•

NORMAN W. ELSON, vice-president of Trans-Lux Theatres, will leave today for Philadelphia, Washington and Boston. He will return Friday.

•

HENRY GORDON, Paramount general manager for Central America, has returned to Panama after a home office visit.

•

SGT. DAVID GOLDEN, former president of SOPEG, Local 109, is home in New York on furlough from Camp Hulen, Texas.

•

ALBERT POULTON, Monogram New England salesman, is ill with pneumonia in St. Raphael's Hosital, New Haven.

•

BILL PANZELLA, of M-G-M's New York exchange booking department, will join the U. S. Navy on Jan. 11.

•

ALEX COOPERMAN, Universal booker in Philadelphia, was married to IRENE KAPLAN yesterday.

•

RALPH D. GOLDBERG of Goldberg Theatres, Omaha, is on an Eastern trip.

•

EVA DELANEY of Delaney's Theatre, Gananoque, Ontario, was elected a member of the Town Council.

•

FRANK P. ROSENBERG, Columbia exploitation manager, left yesterday on a New England business trip.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warners' Eastern division manager, is spending a few days in Cleveland.

•

JACK GOLDHAR, United Artists district manager, is visiting in Cleveland.

Mass for O'Donnell, Killed in Action

A memorial Mass for Staff Sergeant James J. O'Donnell, former manager of RKO's 23rd Street Theatre, who was killed in action over Bremen last Oct. 8, will be said at St. Patrick's Cathedral, at nine o'clock on Friday morning.

Industry's War Aid Cited by Coe to 550

CLEVELAND, Jan. 10.—Some 550 guests from as far away as Columbus and Toledo today heard Charles Francis Coe, vice-president of the MPPDA, describe the industry's war effort and its work in re-indoctrinating reconquered countries, in an industry-civic conference in the Cleveland Hotel under auspices of the Cleveland Advertising Club.

The body of his speech was devoted to the industry's post-war program, including keeping intact a pictorial record of causes of this war, a camera record of impulses of leading statesmen leading to lasting peace, the entrance of American pictures with soldiers into reconquered countries, and the teaching of dictator peoples how democracy works, showing them American ideals and living standards.

Coe will address the Cincinnati Advertisers Club at the Hotel Gibson on "The Screen and Freedom" on Wednesday.

Mayor Frank J. Lausche was toastmaster at the Cleveland meeting, with out of town notables at the speakers table including Kenneth C. Ray of Columbus, head of the Ohio censor board; Martin G. Smith of Toledo, president of the ITOA of Ohio, and Peter J. Wood of Columbus, ITO secretary. Managers of Toledo theatres were also in the audience, which also included mayors of eight adjacent municipalities.

Coe to Tell About Industry's War Part

CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—"What the Motion Picture Is Doing to Help Win the War" will be told members of the Executive Club next Friday at an industry and civic luncheon in the Hotel Sherman, by Charles Francis Coe, executive vice-president of the Motion Picture Producers & Distributors of America.

'Bernadette' Opens At Rivoli Jan. 25

Twentieth Century-Fox's "The Song of Bernadette" will have its Eastern premiere at the Rivoli in New York on Tuesday, January 25, with a heavy promotional campaign, according to Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution.

Leaders of films, the theatre, press and radio, as well as important civic and state personalities have been invited to the invitational premiere, with many of the company's stars also expected to attend.

3-Day Sales Meet Called by Columbia

A three-day sales meeting will be held by Columbia Pictures at the Hotel Warwick here, starting Feb. 1-3, with general sales manager A. Montague presiding.

Branch and division managers from all territories except the West will attend.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 10.

CHARLES D. PRUTZMAN arrived here yesterday from the East.

•

Ralph Berger, formerly with Harry Sherman Productions has joined the RKO-Radio art department. His first assignment will be as art director on "Heavenly Days," forthcoming Fibber McGee and Molly picture being produced by Robert Fellows.

Install Film Board Officers Tomorrow

Installation of officers of the New York Film Board of Trade will be held tomorrow at the home of Louis Nizer, general counsel and executive secretary.

Those elected were: Ralph Pielow, president, succeeding Henry Randel; Clarence Eiseman, first vice-president, succeeding Ralph Pielow; Jack Ellis, second vice-president, replacing Joe J. Lee; Ray Moon, treasurer, succeding Ben Abner; Robert J. Fannon was reeleeted secretary, and Joseph Felder replaced Leo Jacobi as sergeant-at-arms.

Lichtman Returns, Reisman Delayed

Al Lichtman, vice-president of Loew's, arrived in New York over the weekend from Montreal, where he had been awaiting passage to London since Jan. 1. Inability to obtain accommodations for his projected trip, it was learned here, was the prime reason for his return to the home office.

Phil Reisman, RKO vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, enroute to England, is reported detained in Bermuda.

Fischer Addresses Yale

Herbert Fischer, manager of the Earle Theatre, Jackson Heights, L. I., addressed students of the Drama School at Yale, New Haven, late last week on "Drama Productions and Motion Pictures in German." Fischer was well known in motion picture circles in Germany before Hitler and Nazism. He was film censor in that country and was labor organizer.

Frasers Going West

George Fraser, feature writer at Columbia Pictures, and his wife, Paula Weiss Fraser, Paramount pressbook publicity writer, have resigned effective Jan. 28, and will leave immediately thereafter for Hollywood. Their future plans will be announced upon their arrival on the Coast.

Altec Promotes Quinn

R. A. Quinn has been named branch manager of the Los Angeles office of Altec Service Corp. Quinn has been with Altec for six years and was formerly associated with Electrical Research Products.

Gives Warning on Population Shifts

(*Continued from page* 1)

populations diminish as war work closes down, exhibitors will see empty seats, but those with the most modern establishments will feel the situation less than operators of older and more deteriorated theatres, which now are riding profitably on the crest of the war boom.

Conversely, an improvement in attendance will be noted by exhibitors who have lived on short box office income rations for the past two or three years in communities which have tentatively lost population to war centers, as war workers drift back to their permanent homes.

Dr. Hauser cautioned the industry that in the case of communities which have not gained population during the war period, the situation should be carefully surveyed before new houses are built. On the other hands, few of the now-teeming industrial centers are seen as losing much, if not all, of their war-created increment of population, he stated.

'Redbook' Picks 'Watch'

Redbook Magazine has named Warners' "Watch on the Rhine" for its motion picture award for 1943. The trophy will be presented tonight on the Screen Actors Guild radio program.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

Dorothy LAMOUR - Dick POWELL - Victor MOORE
in
"RIDING HIGH"
A Paramount Picture
IN TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON
TOMMY DORSEY and Band
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
OLIVIA DeHAVILLAND SONNY TUFTS
'GOVERNMENT GIRL'
James Dunn Anne Shirley Jess Barker

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Mickey ROONEY - Judy GARLAND
in M-G-M's
'GIRL CRAZY'
In Person
Grace McDonald
Smith & Dale
Salici Puppets

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone Circle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

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VICTORY CARBONS



EXHIBITORS and projectionists across America are to be congratulated for their splendid contribution to the war effort by conserving and recovering much of the copper plating of their "National" Victory Carbons . . . copper that would have been completely lost but for their cooperation.

Naturally the copper coating on Victory Carbons is as thin as practicable, because copper is a vital war material. This calls for strict maintenance of arc current within the recommended range, and careful adjustment of the carbon feed ratio.

Satisfied theater audiences everywhere are testimony to the constant attention being given to the current and feed factors.

In addition, tons of copper drippings and copper plate stripped from carbon stubs have been turned back into production channels as your Government urged.

Your continued cooperation in saving copper is still of utmost importance, for copper needs go right on expanding as America's war production grows. You've done a splendid job. Keep up the good work!

As a reminder, check the table below for carbon trim and current values specified for your equipment. A bulletin describing completely the operation of the Victory High Intensity Carbons will be sent promptly on request. Write for it today.

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"1 Kw" High Intensity, A. C.	52-66	7 mm x 9 inch H.I., A. C. Carbons in both holders
"1 Kw" High Intensity, D. C.	40-42	7 mm x 12 inch or 14 inch "Suprex" Positive 6 mm x 9 inch "Orotip" C Negative
Simplified High Intensity, D. C. with *adjustable* feed ratio	42-45	7 mm x 12 inch or 14 inch "Suprex" Positive 6 mm x 9 inch "Orotip" C Negative
Simplified High Intensity, D. C. with *fixed* feed ratio	42-45	7 mm x 12 inch or 14 inch "Suprex" Positive 7 mm x 9 inch "Orotip" C Negative
Simplified High Intensity, D. C.	56-65	8 mm x 12 inch or 14 inch "Suprex" Positive 7 mm x 9 inch "Orotip" C Negative

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Grosses at B'way First-Run Houses Better than Average

(Continued from page 1)

Harvest," ran 11 weeks; "Mrs. Miniver," ten, and "Philadelphia Story" and "Woman of the Year" each played six.

Continuing the healthy pace established during the first two weeks of its run and which saw many house records fall, "The Gang's All Here' and a stage show headed by Bill Robinson and Jimmy Dorsey's orchestra will do an estimated $75,000 on its third week at the Roxy and holds for a fourth. Third week of "A Guy Named Joe" and a Hollywood "in person" show featuring Kathryn Grayson, Lou Holtz and Richard Himber and his orchestra, is headed for a neat $70,000 and and the same bill holds for a fourth.

'Tokyo' Heads for $63,000

After rolling up over $77,000 on its first week at the Strand to set an all-time record for the house, previously held by "Little Caesar," "Destination Tokyo" and a stage show headed by Charlie Barnet and his band is estimated to do $63,000 on its second week and will hold over. The Paramount, presenting "Riding High" and a bill featuring Tommy Dorsey's band, will gross around $58,000 on a third week and will hold for a fourth.

"Desert Song," in its fourth week at the Hollywood is expected to gross $22,000 and will hold for a fifth week. The 13th week of the continuous run of "For Whom the Bell Tolls" at the Rivoli should give the house an estimated $32,000 and the picture will continue. Final six days of "Cry Havoc" at the Astor ending the sixth week, is headed for $10,000.

IBEW Coast Studio Strike Postponed

(Continued from page 1)

PICTURE DAILY today. The right to hold a union strike vote under WLB regulations is now in the hands of IBEW members as a result of the strike vote held last week under National Labor Relations Board supervision. Speede plans to present the WLB a copy of a letter dated Feb. 1943, signed by Fred E. Pelton, producers' representative, which Speede claims recognizes the producers' agreement to grant IBEW any wage increase granted any union outside the basic agreement which the electricians signed in Sept. 1941.

Siegel Resigns As Production Chief

(Continued from page 1)

1920, when he became affiliated with Selznick Pictures. In 1924 he joined Consolidated Film Industries, of which he was vice-president until 1936. During this time he also served as president of American Record Co., a subsidiary of Consolidated.

He took part in the formation of Republic Productions and was vice-president until 1937, when he took over as studio head and president.

Kenny Method on Screen

Today's newsreel releases will contain shots of the Sister Kenny method for treating infantile paralysis, filmed at last week's exhibitors' March of Dimes meeting in Atlanta.

Film Stars' Tours Set in 4th War Loan Campaign

(Continued from page 1)

250,794 set by the "Bond Cavalcade" and "Airmada" star groups in the 3rd War Loan Drive last September.

Ten pairs of stars will comprise 10 teams that will spend two weeks visiting large population and industrial centers. These stars will not appear in theatres or other places of entertainment, as they did previously.

At the request of the Treasury Department another group of stars will be assigned to nine "Bond Batallions," one for each of the Army Service Command areas of the United States. In each batallion will be two screen stars accompanied by a group of war veterans. These Batallions will cover over 100 cities in one-day stands, traveling in Army transport planes.

His New Nickname Is 'Bond-a-Seat' Skouras

DALLAS, Jan. 10. — "Bond-a-Seat Skouras"—That is the tag State Chairman Bob O'Donnell of Texas tacked on Charles P. Skouras, national chairman, 4th War Loan Campaign of the motion picture industry, today at the precampaign exhibitor meeting held here which was attended by over 300 exhibitors from the Southwest.

The session was held at the Adolphus Hotel. In explaining the new Skouras name, O'Donnell stated that all he had been hearing for the past four weeks wherever he traveled was "Bond a Seat" and "at last," he explained, "I've got the man who's responsible for it—and here he is, 'Bond-a-Seat Skouras.'"

More Than 400 at Phila. Drive Rally

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 10.—"When the final pages of the war efforts are printed the industry will have the brightest page," William F. Rodgers, Loew's vice-president and general sales manager, said today as he rallied the support of the local industry for the Fourth War Loan and March of Dimes drives. At the largest trade meeting in local history more than 400 industry members were present at the Broadwood Hotel.

Roosevelt Lauds Industry on 'Dimes'

(Continued from page 1)

demands of you—and the thousands of men and women in the motion picture business who serve with you—and yet I can tell from the conversation with Mr. O'Connor that the real size of this job is never fully understood, unless one has the time to learn of the incredible number and kind of things that have to be done to bring such an effort to complete success.

"With the magnificent performance of your group last year very vividly in my mind," continued the President, "I am confident that you and your co-workers will live up to the campaign slogan you have chosen for the motion picture drive—*'More in* 1944.'"

'Flying Squadron' Ends Tour of Key Cities

The March of Dimes national film committee's "flying squadron" wound up a tour of key city meetings yesterday in Dallas. Oscar A. Doob, campaign publicity director, predicts $250,000 additional collections in theatres of southern states alone in the 1944 drive. The prediction followed an exhibitor meeting in New Orleans in the office of E. V. Richards.

At the New Orleans meeting were exhibitors representing some 300 theatres, including Richards, Maurice F. Barr, Norman Carter and Gaston Dureau of Paramount-Richards & Sanger interests; Manny Jacobs, United Theatres; J. Brunet, chairman of the Independent Exhibitors; Rodney Toups, Loew's State, and C. J. Bryant of M-G-M, co-chairman.

At the Dallas meeting, state chairman Bob O'Donnell and 300 exhibitors representing 1,200 theatres in Texas, pledged their support.

Attending the Dallas meeting from New York were: Harry Brandt, E. L. Alperson and Doob. Also present were "Dimes" state chairmen L. C. Griffith, Oklahoma; Julius Gordon, Texas; Miles L. Hurley, New Mexico; M. A. Lightman, Arkansas.

Warners Deny They Sought Outside Stars

(Continued from page 1)

for outside talent other than bands and incidental entertainers. Describing some of the SAG assertions as "petulant and untrue" and others as "improper and irrational," Warners reaffirmed their stand that the actor has a right to set his own price.

Majors Reportedly Acceding to Clark

(Continued from page 1)

meeting being tentatively set for next Monday in New York. Officials of all the companies are expected to participate in the meeting. New York has been selected as the location to save the necessity of a large party traveling to Washington.

While the exact contents of the revised decree are not expected to be revealed for some days, it is reported that the distributors have granted practically all the concessions which Clark has consistently demanded must be incorporated in any agreement that he will submit to the Federal Court for approval. Whether they have gone as far as Clark deems essential, however, will be determined at next week's conference.

Walt Disney 1943 Income Is $681,536

(Continued from page 1)

the year was for Army, Navy and governmental agencies on a non-profit basis, while the plant turned out only nine entertainment shorts, instead of the usual eighteen, and one feature, "Victory Through Air Power." The studio sustained a 27½ per cent loss in personnel to the armed services during the period.

Current and working assets at the close of the year amounted to $4,916,635, while current liabilities amounted to $2,428,454, leaving an excess of $2,488,181, compared with $1,873,907 at the close of the preceding year. This is an increase of $614,274.

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Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 8 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1944 TEN CENTS

High Taxes Curb Sale of Film Rights

Producers Desire Deals Spread Over Years

Recognizing that Hollywood will stand for enormous purchase prices for film rights to hit Broadway plays, as they frequently did last year, yet reluctant to give up the equally enormous federal income tax which these large sums are subject to, several Broadway producers are understood to be withholding the outright sale of highly successful plays now current, and for which picture companies have been bidding. Instead, they are insisting upon profit participations in the films spread over two or three years.

Participation on a percentage basis

(*Continued on page* 13)

'U' Elects Work and German to Board

Election on the Coast of Clifford P. Work and William J. German to the board of directors of Universal Pictures Co., Inc., was announced here yesterday through J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board.



Clifford P. Work

Work has been vice-president and general manager of Universal's Coast studios since May, 1938. He went to Universal from division directorship of RKO Theatres' Western group, a post he occupied with success.

German is vice-president of Jules

(*Continued on page* 15)

Stearn Opens Booking Combine in Chicago

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 11.—Bert Stearn, former United Artists Western sales manager, will open Co-operative Theatre Services here, with offices at 1709 Boulevard-of-the-Allies.

The new buying and booking service will be patterned after Co-operative Theatres of Ohio. Stearn will hold "open house" in his new offices Jan. 19.

Wilson Is Republic Production Chief; Siegel to M-G-M

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 11.—Allen Wilson, formerly general manager of Republic studios, has been appointed vice-president in charge of studio operations, it was announced here yesterday by Herbert J. Yates, Sr. Wilson succeeds M. J. Siegel, who resigned from Republic this week and will join M-G-M studios in a high executive capacity about Feb. 15.

Siegel was associated with Yates' enterprises for nineteen years, taking part in the formation of Republic Productions. He was vice-president of the

(*Continued on page* 15)

Copyright Appeals To Be Heard Jan. 21

TORONTO, Jan. 11.—A hearing by the Copyright Appeal Board of applications for musical royalty fees in 1944 from organizations controlling musical works has been scheduled for Jan. 21, when an opportunity will also be provided for presentation of objections to new or increased charges for public use of compositions by theatres, broadcasters, orchestras, hotels and fall fairs. Approved fees will be retroactive to the first of the year.

It is anticipated that the Musical Protective Association will oppose

(*Continued on page* 15)

Reissues May Be Run for 'Premieres'

"A reissue will be considered the same as a new picture in respect to 4th War Bond Premieres," Ned E. Depinet, national chairman of the distributors' committee, stated here recently. The exhibitor must have the picture under contract and cannot play it more than 30 days in advance of its availability for booking at his theatre, he said.

Also, any exchange furnishing a feature to a theatre gratis for a bond premiere or at rental for a "Free Movie Day" must secure a prompt report from the theatre on the number of bonds sold and relay the information to the local distribution chairman.

Broadway Managers Plan Bond Drive

More than 40 Broadway theatre operators gathered here yesterday at luncheon in the Stork Club's Blessed Event room and made plans to put into effect several major ideas that have been advanced for their participation in the 4th War Loan Drive, Jan. 18 to Feb. 15.

The main speaker was Neville Ford, representing the Treasury Department as the campaign's executive manager

(*Continued on page* 13)

1,200 Additional Houses Pledge Aid for 'Dimes'

"Theatres of all states are now solidly lined up to take audience collections during March of Dimes week, Jan. 24-30; pledges are flooding drive headquarters here—among thousands of pledges are 1,200 theatres which never before participated in the drive." So reported the industry's March of Dimes committee here yesterday.

With the "solid South" now enlisted in the drive to take audience collections all performances, it is estimated that at least $250,000 will be added to Southern theatres' collections, compared with last year. R. J. O'Donnell, at a meeting in Dallas, announced that with audience collections in all Texas theatres, he expected to multiply the collections at least eight times, $100,000 instead of last year's $12,000.

E. V. Richards and other exhibi-

(*Continued on page* 13)

Roosevelt Asks for Labor Draft Law

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—President Roosevelt today asked Congress for a five-point "all-out" war program based on a national service law buttressed by a "realistic" tax law, continuation of re-negotiation of war contracts, subsidies and continuance of the Economic Stabilization Act now due to expire next June 30.

The President submitted his program to a Congress which already had half of it on its agenda and had already voiced its opposition to the remainder, in which category are heavy taxes, including levies on admissions, subsidies and universal service.

Roosevelt, declaring that "the tax

(*Continued on page* 13)

M-G-M Aiding Small Houses Hit by War

Assistance to Build and Hold New Business

Following through with its decision of several months ago to spend $125,000 to assist small town theatre owners whose grosses have been affected by adverse migratory or other conditions arising out of the war, M-G-M has already put into action its plan of having special field representatives visit exhibitors to suggest ways and means of stimulating new patronage and promotional methods for sustaining it, Howard Dietz, M-G-M ad-publicity-exploitation director, revealed here yesterday.

Based on the results achieved, after visits by representatives to a number of small town situations, M-G-M will extend its plan to all sales territories as quickly as representatives can make arrangements, Dietz added.

"Visits of M-G-M representatives to the small town situations not only

(*Continued on page* 15)

Warners Suing SAG On 'Canteen' Curb

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 11.—In the first action of its kind in the history of producer-union relationships, Warner Bros. today filed suit against the Screen Actors' Guild in Superior Court here for $500,000 damages alleged sustained in the abandonment of filming "Hollywood Canteen" and asking an injunction to restrain (1) "arbitrary interpretation and enforcement of Rule 33"; (2) "violation of the basic agreement."

A 10-point statement by J. R. Files, of Freston & Files, Warner attorneys,

(*Continued on page* 15)

Will Honor Moss at Drive Lunch Today

New York License Commissioner Paul Moss, who has been active in the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies here, will be guest of honor at a luncheon today to be held by the theatre owners' committee of the federation's amusement division. It is scheduled for the Hotel Astor at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting will be opened by Da-

(*Continued on page* 15)

Personal Mention

PAT CASEY, producers' labor contact, has postponed his contemplated return to the Coast for several weeks.

•

BOB MYERS, Famous Players booker, was recently given a farewell banquet at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto. He has become a chief petty officer in the Canadian Navy, attached to the Special Branch in Ottawa, where he will book films for Navy vessels and training stations.

•

EMMETT ROGERS, Chattanooga manager for Eastern Theatres, was recently elected president of the Chattanoogans, an organization for promotion of local civic interests.

•

P. S. HARRISON, publisher of *Harrison's Reports*, will leave New York today for DelRey Beach, Florida, where he will be the guest of W. A. (AL) STEFFES for a month.

•

HARRY THOMAS, Eastern division sales manager for Monogram, will return to New York Saturday, from a trip to Buffalo, Albany and Gloversville.

•

CHARLES RICH, Warners' district manager in Cleveland, has been in Cincinnati and Indianapolis. He will return to Cleveland tomorrow.

•

ROBERT MOCHRIE, RKO-Radio sales manager, and LEON J. BAMBERGER, sales promotion manager, will leave tonight for Boston.

•

OSCAR SERLIN, producer of "Life with Father," left yesterday for Hollywood where he will confer with film writers.

•

RODNEY COLLIER, manager of the Stanley Theatre, Baltimore, has returned to his desk, following a siege of influenza.

•

GEORGE LANDERS, manager of E. M. Loew's theatre in Hartford, Conn., made a business trip to Boston last week.

•

MARSHALL JONES and FRED WARNER, operators of the Paramount Theatre, New Haven, have been ill.

•

ROY DISNEY and GUNTHER LESSING of Walt Disney Productions are in New York from Hollywood.

•

VINCENT FLYNN, M-G-M Cincinnati salesman, reports for induction on Jan. 18.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, in charge of M-G-M exchange operations, is in St. Louis and will return Friday.

•

I. J. HOFFMAN, Warners' New Haven zone manager, is in New York.

•

FRANK PHELPS, Warner labor relations contact, is in Philadelphia today.

(*More Personals on Page* 12)

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

New York, Jan. 11

WALTER WINCHELL was hitting right and left in his column Tuesday. He was also hitting wildly. Because he was wild, it follows as it so frequently does that all of his punches failed to land on their objective. A couple of them ricocheted and landed on Winchell, although he probably was not aware of what struck.

His printed tirade wrapped itself around the necks of the newsreels. Not one newsreel, but all newsreels. He went the entire distance with blanket charges that the subjects were guilty of being "gutless," that they indulged in "implication and mealy mouthism," that their sponsors were guilty of fostering "morale-weakening reels."

■

The hub of his charge was that management is determining for the commentators the narrative note to be struck and the approach to be sounded. Thus, one of his objections centers around an unnamed newsreel company on the ground it took cracks at the peace by poking fun at the Cairo and Teheran conferences and "implying that Uncle Samson had been rooked."

Despite this, Winchell wants no one muzzled, but suggests reviewers remain in theatres to report what they see because his calculation is it will not be long ere the offenders will run to cover under a neat sunburn of printed exposure.

■

It seems to us Winchell delivers a performance on this occasion which is in decided variance with a great deal of his other crusading. He is the fiery columnist who names names, designates places, attributes motives and then tries to prove them.

If he has the goods on any or all newsreels, it is not clear why he does not spill it. Instead, he indulges either in generalities or the specific unadorned with the essential who, what and when. He boils over into the violence of an attack, sweeps the possible innocent along with the possible guilty, damages reputations in the eyes of his readers and then moves on to other matters.

■

This sort of yes-and-no tactic is becoming an annoyance and a bore. Probably, too, it is not fooling as many people as it once did. Yet it does make required these paragraphs in defense of the newsreels and the industry of which they are a part because the fire stirred under them is so obviously unfair.

It is unfair in that the blaze lacks definition, shies away from fixing names, time and place. Unfair because there is a generalization when proof depends upon concrete evidence.

If Winchell knows of procedures in newsreel handling which hamper the war, he does a service only if he tells what he knows in terms clear and unmistakable so that all who read may understand. If he cannot or will not, fair play indicates he ought to keep his typewriter buttoned.

■ ■

Universal's corporate setup assumes additional strength with the election of Cliff Work and Bill German to the board of directors. In their own sectors, both men are well and favorably known. As vice-president in charge of the company's production, Work has suffered the pains of studio reorganization—and they were excrutiating as familiars with the situation fully appreciate—and has representatively kept his company's standard crisply aloft in unpredictable Hollywood air pockets.

German has remained pretty much in the background of the industry insofar as the public prints have it. His association with Jules E. Brulatour, liaison between Eastman Kodak and the producers, runs back many years. Not much in the headlines, German, nevertheless, has been active in those many directions where business is conducted as business and not necessarily decorated with fanfare and fuss.

He's the substantial type, and an asset.

■ ■

Under consideration at Warners now and for some weeks past are three roadshows. All three are in the oft-described "timeless" division, meaning by that their currency does not depend on the war or any facets of war. All three, moreover, have been reposing in dignified aloofness on the shelf for some time. Their titles:

"Adventures of Mark Twain."
"Saratoga Trunk."
"Rhapsody in Blue."

Le Francois to Be Guest of Universal

Universal will be host at a luncheon at Toots Shor's on Tuesday, Jan. 18, for Captain W. S. LeFrancois, who was a member of Carlson's Raiders and served as technical adviser for "U's" "Gung Ho!"

Plans for promoting the Walter Wanger production have been set, according to Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising and publicity director. Highlights will be two Coast-to-Coast broadcasts. On Jan. 21 the Kate Smith program will promote "Gung Ho!," and on Jan. 18 it will be featured on the "Report to the Nation" program. Included in the advertising plans will be full page advertisements in newspapers in all key cities.

A program has been arranged with the Treasury Department for a bond rally in New York's Chinatown, to be known as the "Gung Ho Rally." Local campaigns are being organized in key cities along similar lines. During the week Capt. LeFrancois will be honored by Boston with a dinner to be attended by Gov. Saltonstall, Mayor Tobin and newspaper representatives from 14 New England cities. A similar ceremony will be held in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, during the following week.

Para. Sales Meet Postponed to Feb. 3

The two-day meeting of Paramount district sales managers and field exploitation men set for Jan. 21-22 has been expanded to a three-day session and postponed to February 3-4-5, Neil Agnew, sales manager, announced today. The change was made in order that field men may see and discuss plans for Cecil B. De Mille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell."

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Pierre in New York. In addition to "Wassell," those present will see "Lady in the Dark."

Industry Leaders at 'Lifeboat' Premiere

An invitational premiere launching 20th-Fox's "Lifeboat" at the Astor Theatre here last night was attended by a number of industry leaders. Invited were: J. Robert Rubin, Charles Moskowitz, William Rodgers, David Bernstein, Howard Dietz, Adolph Zukor, Neil Agnew, Charles Reagan, Sam Dembow, Leonard Goldenson, Edward Raftery, Carl Leserman, James R. Grainger, N. Peter Rathvon, Edward Alperson, Robert Mochrie, William Scully, Walter Reade, Frank C. Walker, George Skouras and others.

Keller Joins Universal

Harry Keller, publicist, has joined the home office publicity department of Universal. He will work on special assignments, starting with Walter Wanger's "Gung Ho!" In addition to home office assignments, he will also act as special representative on major production and special radio assignments.

Keller headed his own public relations organization.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign: single copies, 10c.


to catch a star
on your
finger tips . . .

Greer Garson
Walter Pidgeon
MADAME CURIE

Directed by
MERVYN LEROY

Produced by
SIDNEY FRANKLIN

with

HENRY TRAVERS
ROBERT WALKER
DAME MAY WHITTY
ELSA BASSERMAN
VAN JOHNSON
ALBERT BASSERMAN
C. AUBREY SMITH
VICTOR FRANCEN
REGINALD OWEN
MARGARET O'BRIEN

Screen Play by PAUL OSBORN AND PAUL H. RAMEAU

Based on the Book MADAME CURIE By
EVE CURIE

A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE



PREDICTION

Last year the Academy Award went to "Mrs. Miniver" The press predicts history will repeat.



ovie of the Week: M-G-M may
ll have another shining Oscar or
wo virtually in the satchel. Uncom-
monly good movie. A masterpiece of
lucidity. A love story."
—*Life Magazine*

"Easily the best picture of the year.
A cinch for the Academy Award."
—*Jimmy Starr,*
Los Angeles Herald-Express

Best picture of 1943."
—*Andrew R. Kelly,*
Washington Daily News

"Metro's distinguished candidate for the coming Academy Award for 1943. Sidney Franklin, and the director, Mervyn Le Roy, share in creating an unforgettable picture."
—*Daily Variety*

nevitable success. A production
having much of the quality of illus-
trious predecessors, including 'Mrs.
Miniver'." —*Motion Picture Herald*

"A cinematic event. It will add not only to the coffers of the theatres which play it, but to their standing in the community as well."
—*Motion Picture Daily*

"One of the strongest contenders for all-around Academy honors. Greer Garson can well make room for a little brother to the Oscar she won for her 'Mrs. Miniver'. Garson and Pidgeon in their most successful teaming, as the box-office returns cannot fail to prove."
—*Hollywood Reporter*

"The finest picture since 'Gone With The Wind'." —*Mayme Ober Peak,*
Boston Globe Syndicate

"A fine and impressive motion picture that should win high honors. It is difficult to see how it could be anything but a box-office triumph."
—*Showmen's Trade Review*

Every one concerned with this re-
markable production is a sure-fire
candidate for the Academy Award."
—*Erskine Johnson,*
Newspaper Enterprise Association

"Greer Garson's gentle, dignified and wholly-convincing portrayal of 'Madame Curie' is certain to be a candidate for Academy Award honors." —*Denley, Film Bulletin*

"One of the great pictures of motion picture history." —*Louella Parsons,*
Motion Picture Editor, I. N. S.

'I consider 'Madame Curie' one of
the most beautiful pictures I have
ever seen and feel definitely it will
mean another Academy Award for
Greer Garson." —*Liza Wilson,*
Screenland, Silver Screen

"Raises motion pictures to the realms of Shakespearean drama."
—*Harry Crocker,*
Los Angeles Examiner

"Last year it was the Miniver Rose; this year it is the Curie Orchid."
—*Red Kann, Quigley Publications*

"Last night I saw 'Madame Curie' and without a doubt it is one of the greatest motion pictures ever made. I feel sure that Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon will walk away with the Academy Award. Mervyn LeRoy, Sidney Franklin and the entire M-G-M organization are to be congratulated for such splendid entertainment. 'Madame Curie' is an outstanding box-office success, and is an immortal contribution to the motion picture industry."
—*Frank L. Newman, Sr.,*
Evergreen Theatre Corp.
Seattle, Wash.

"An achievement which will live long in Hollywood history."
—*Hedda Hopper*

"Prestige pictures are not uncom-
mon, but prestige plus profit—big
profit—pictures are exceptional.
'Madame Curie' is one of these.
Stirring throughout...film drama at
its best. A great picture."
—*Boxoffice Magazine*

"Every inch a great picture. A distinguished contribution to the screen. Its box-office success is assured."
—*Variety*

"Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon of 'Mrs. Miniver' fame again bid for Academy honors."
—*Edwin Schallert,*
Los Angeles Times

"One of the year's outstanding films.
One of the finest to emerge from the
Hollywood studios in a long time."
—*Jay Emanuel Publications*

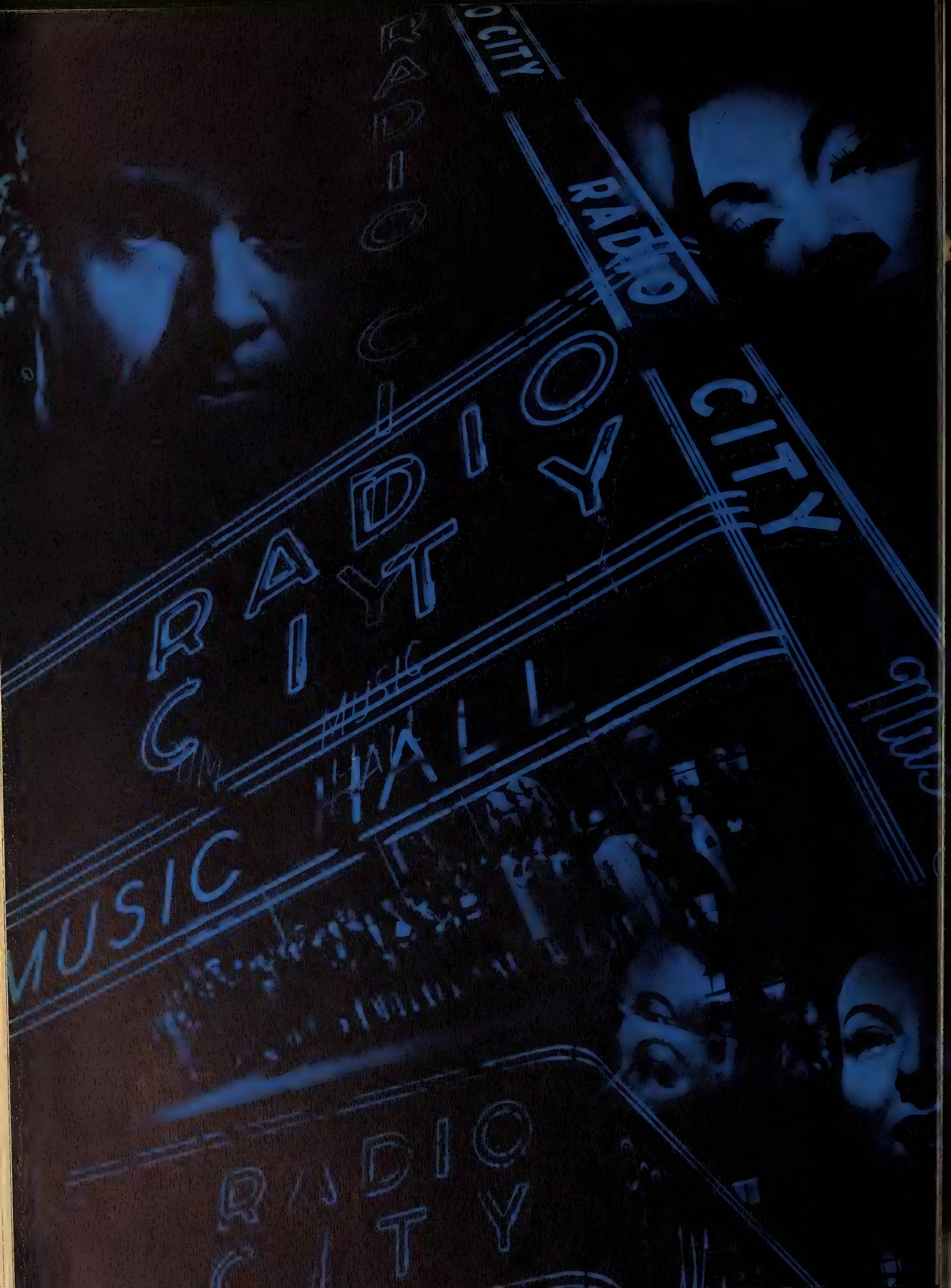
"We go on record favoring it for Academy Awards." —*Frank Quinn,*
N. Y. Sunday Mirror

"A wonderful picture; Greer Garson should, without question, again receive the Academy Award."
—*Elsa Maxwell,*
Nationally Syndicated Column

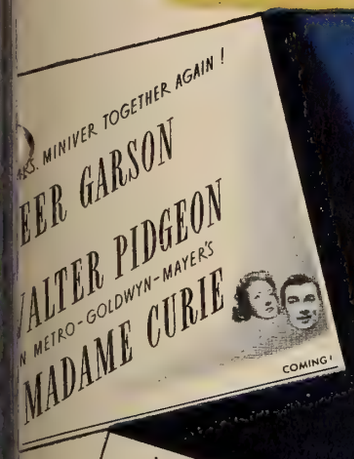
"One of the truly fine pictures of the year." —*Sidney Skolsky*

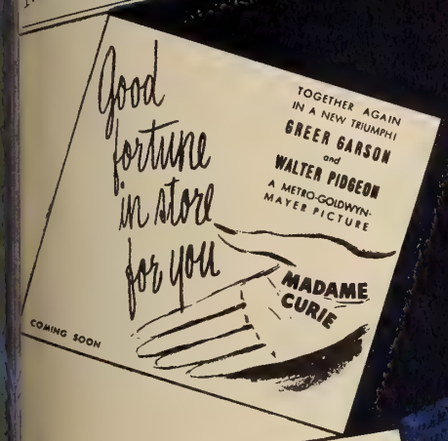
"Unlimited in its appeal. Solid grosses should be the rule. Crammed with all the human elements that are the essence of first-rate dramatic entertainment."
—*Film Daily*

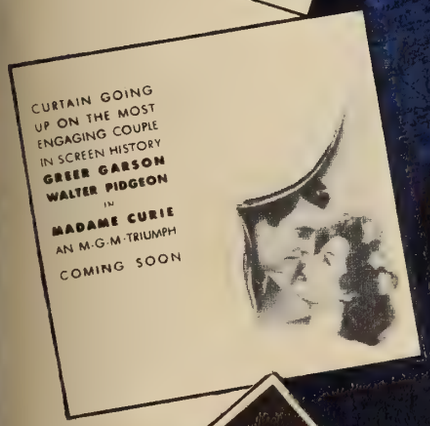



RADIO CITY
RADIO CITY
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
RADIO CITY

FROM RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL—ACROSS THE NATION SPREADS THE FAME OF A GREAT MOTION PICTURE BASED ON AN IMMORTAL BOOK—ADVERTISED IN A GIANT CAMPAIGN.









Picture OF THE MONTH

GREER GARSON and **WALTER PIDGEON** in **Madame Curie**

A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Directed by ..... Mervyn LeRoy
Produced by ..... Sidney Franklin

with Henry Travers, Robert Walker, Dame May Whitty, Elsa Basserman, Van Johnson, Albert Basserman, C. Aubrey Smith, Victor Francen, Reginald Owen, Margaret O'Brien

Screen Play by *Paul Osborn, Paul H. Rameau*
Based on the Book "Madame Curie" by *Eve Curie*

In "Madame Curie", Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon, that utterly delightful couple whom you perhaps remember best as "Mr." and "Mrs. Miniver" give their best performance in their best picture. With new personalities, new roles but the same engaging talent for team-work and heart-work on the screen.

"Madame Curie" is the dramatic story of the woman whose love and devotion endowed the world with the magic of radium. Of Madame Curie and the man she loved, it has been well said "they caught a star on their fingertips". And it is nothing less than a starry quality that shines so eloquently through the scenes of this film.

As one of the finer efforts of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (who can be justly proud they made this picture), "Madame Curie" not only brings together again beloved Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon—it also boasts the direction of Mervyn LeRoy and the deft discretion of Producer Sidney Franklin. This duo made "Random Harvest" unforgettable and their genius for the long-to-be-remembered is again reflected in this, a major masterpiece.

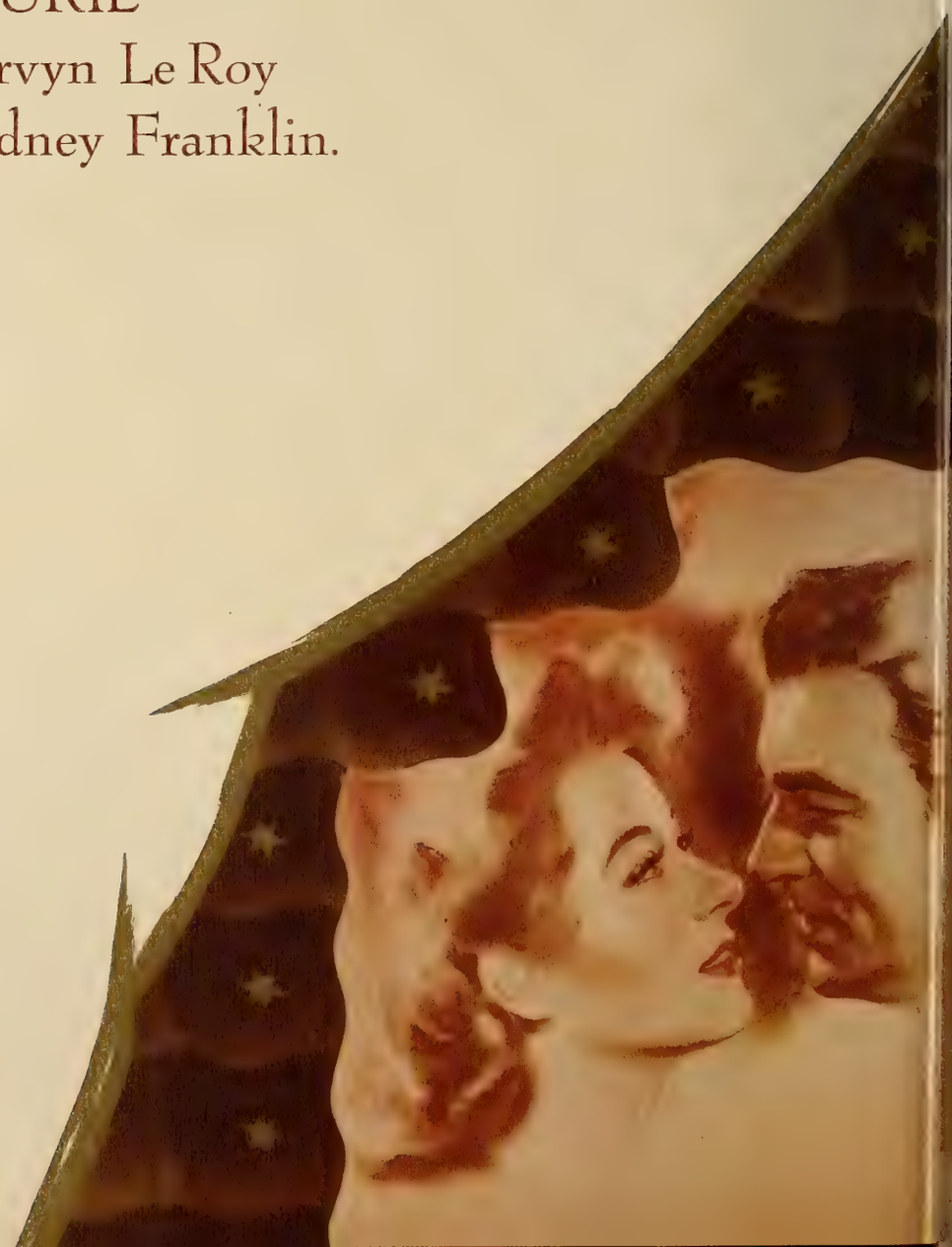
Besides the halo shining around Greer and her screen-mate, Walter Pidgeon, 10 other fine names gleam in the impressive cast. And Paul Osborn and Paul H. Rameau have developed a heart-holding screen-story, based on Eve Curie's notable book.

Add up all this scintillation and you arrive at the happy conclusion—"Madame Curie" may be simply summed up as "great".

• • •

This picture has just been selected to be here showing at the Radio City scene of the screen triumphs of Mrs. Miniver" and "Random And like those two pictures, Curie" will start its run on New 's Big Street but its absorbing story will take it into every town, large or small.

Curtain up!
Your audience
is waiting for
Greer Garson
Walter Pidgeon
in the immortal
love story of
MADAME CURIE
directed by Mervyn Le Roy
produced by Sidney Franklin.
M-G-M
naturally!



Our Two Big Jobs In January:

Arthur Group Will Function by Fall

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 11.—A meeting of the organizers of Exhibitors Distributing Corp., who expect to have the new producing-distributing organization functioning before Fall, will be called soon, it was revealed this week by Harry C. Arthur, Jr., vice-president and general manager of Fanchon & Marco and one of the leaders in the new enterprise. The corporation, which will be modeled along the lines of the old First National, has applied for a charter in Delaware.

Arthur said that he and his associates have already established exhibitor franchise representation in 14 exchange centers which are understood to represent 55 per cent of film rental returns of the country.

F. & M. Control Franchises

Fanchon & Marco now controls the franchises of the new corporation in St. Louis and Los Angeles and is negotiating for a third key center.

Arthur insists that officers have not yet been selected. The election will be on the agenda at the meeting to be held soon. He explains, however, that under no circumstances will he accept the presidency. In addition to being vice-president and general manager of Fanchon & Marco, he is president of Fanchon & Marco Service Corp., the management organization for the 60 Fanchon & Marco theatres throughout the country, and a director of St. Louis Amusement Co.

Among those who are interested is Si Fabian who operates a circuit in New Jersey and New York. He is expected to obtain the franchise for the New York City and Albany territories.

Ned Buddy Receives The Purple Heart

Lewis (Ned) Buddy, pre-war director of Paramount News in Europe, and now civilian director of the newsreel photographers' pool, has been decorated with the Order of the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in the Naples post office explosion last October.

Buddy was injured when land mines planted by the retreating Nazis blew up. Word of his decoration reached Paramount News in New York from Allied headquarters in Algiers yesterday.

Columbia Promotes Caplon in Capital

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Ben Caplon, Columbia salesman here, has been promoted to branch manager, under the supervision of district manager Sam Galanty. Caplon will take over Jan. 31.

Tradeshowing 'Lady'

"Lady in the Dark" will be trade shown at Paramount exchanges Feb. 3. The Technicolor production will have its world premiere in Hollywood on Feb. 9.

Set 'Higher' for Palace

RKO-Radio's Frank Sinatra film, "Higher and Higher," is scheduled to follow "Government Girl" into the New York Palace Theatre, on Jan. 27, tentatively.

Reviews

"Lifeboat"

(20th Century-Fox)

FOR the callous few who still may be harbouring the delusion that underneath the Nazi uniform there beats the simple, human heart of a barbarian who may some day be reclaimed by civilization, there is a message of disillusion and hopelessness in "Lifeboat."

Alfred Hitchcock has taken a group of survivors from an Allied merchant ship torpedoed by a Nazi submarine, placed the Nazi commander of the U-boat among them and steered their course through harrowing adventure, mental and physical torture and a chain of events that is gripping and, occasionally, amusing, to set forth that message. Ably assisting him in the endeavor, which is based upon a Jo Swerling screenplay from a John Steinbeck original, is an excellent cast of stowaways, namely Tallulah Bankhead, William Bendix, John Hodiak, Henry Hull, Hume Cronyn, Canada Lee, Heather Angel, Mary Anderson and Walter Slezak. The last named depicts the U-boat commander rescued after his vessel has been shelled by the doomed merchant ship.

The Nazi commander had ordered the shelling of the lifeboats before his own craft was destroyed. Taken from the sea, he endeavors to trick his rescuers into steering a course for a Nazi submarine supply ship. He conceals energy tablets and water from the survivors, further stricken when their meagre supplies are swept overboard in a storm. He drowns a maimed seaman, deranged by thirst, while the other occupants of the lifeboat are asleep. In the end, even the humane among the survivors who pleaded for mercy for the Nazi aid in disposing of him. As they drift into sight of the Nazi supply ship they witness its destruction by an Allied warship. Again, a Nazi survivor saved from the sea turns upon them but is disarmed and held for the approaching Allied vessel.

The Hitchcock direction of the Kenneth MacGowan production has a good share of the nerve-straining episodes which characterize much of the director's work. The cast is uniformly excellent but the performances of Bendix, Slezak, Hull and Hodiak are outstanding. The picture is frankly and openly of the hate-your-enemy school, but it is doubtful whether it can accomplish more in that direction than can the enemy himself in the normal course of events. It strives to keep within the limitations of credible drama and, even, entertainment. The result is an engrossing film, readily exploitable from many angles for many types of patrons, and stimulating in opening up on the screen an uncompromising view not unrelated to the subject of postwar treatment of the enemy.

Running time, 96 minutes. Classification: G.* Release, Jan. 28.

SHERWIN KANE

*"G" denotes general classification.

Devaney of RKO to Head Canada MPDA

TORONTO, Jan. 11.—Leo M. Devaney, Canadian division sales manager for RKO-Radio, has been elected president of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association, succeeding the late James P. O'Loghlin. Col. John Cooper was re-elected chairman of the board.

The new CMPDA president has been in Canada since 1930 when he came to take charge of RKO Canadian theatres. For the past 12 years he has been head of the company's Canadian distribution.

Wanger, Silberberg Head Unity Group

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—Mayor Fletcher Bowren here has appointed Walter Wanger, Mendel Silberberg and John Lee to a "Los Angeles Committee for Home Front Unity."

Established with official status as an advisory council to the Mayor to combat "the enemy's objective to array creed against creed, race against race, and color against color," the committee's membership embraces a wide range of religious, civic, film, industrial and professional groups.

Charles King, Actor, Dies in England

LONDON, Jan. 11.—Charles P. King, 49, who starred in one of Hollywood's first musicals, "Broadway Melody," died in a hospital today of pneumonia contracted aboard ship en route to England to appear with USO Camp Shows.

The actor last appeared in New York singing at Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe the songs he had introduced years ago.

A native of New York, King began his career in vaudeville and succeeded to the George M. Cohan role in "The Yankee Prince." He was starred in "Hit the Deck" and "Present Arms" before going to Hollywood. His first picture there was followed by "The Hollywood Review" and "Chasing Rainbows." Later, during an 11-year absence from entertainment fields, the actor filed a petition in bankruptcy, but in 1941 he made a comeback in "Panama Hattie."

His wife and daughter survive.

RCA Promotes Underhill

Charles R. Underhill, Jr., RCA service executive in Pittsburgh for 16 years, has been named to the home office staff of RCA's film theatre equipment section in Camden.

Coast Producers Study New Budget

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—The Association of Motion Picture Producers' board in its first 1944 meeting last night appointed a new budget committee consisting of Benjamin B. Kahane of Columbia, chairman; Cliff Work of Universal, and Jason S. Joy, of 20th Century-Fox, to chart the association's financial prospectus for the year.

Following a long discussion concerning the increasing inroads on production efficiency being caused by mounting requests for visiting privileges from servicemen and civilians, the board ordered studios to keep a complete record of all passes issued during the month as a basis for a report to the next meeting.

Hays Off for Coast Abot January 22d

Will H. Hays, president of the MPPDA, will leave for the Coast about Jan. 22 to attend the annual meeting of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, Hollywood affiliate of the MPPDA.

Date of the meeting on the Coast has not been revealed.

Miriam W. Hess Files Clearance Complaint

Miriam W. Hess, operating the Groton Theatre, Groton, Conn., has filed a clearance complaint at the New Haven tribunal against the five consenting companies, the American Arbitration Association has reported.

The complaint states that the Capital and Garden, first runs in New London, enjoy a 45-day clearance over the Groton on 20th-Fox product, and that the Victory theatre, now independently operated, and formerly operated as the Crown by M. and P. Theatres, enjoys a 14-day clearance over the complainant's theatre on Loew, RKO, Warner and Paramount product. It further alleges that the Victory, then known as the Crown, was closed, and that during that time, Loew's, 20th-Fox and Paramount's product was available to Groton 45 days after first runs in New London, while RKO and Warner's product was available 30 days after first runs in New London.

Complainant charges that existing clearances are unreasonable and seeks a reduction of the present clearance from seven to 14 days after first runs in New London, or not more than 21 days after national release date, whichever is earlier.

CIE Adopts Policy of More Trade Unity

TORONTO, Jan. 11.—A policy of increased cooperation with film distributors and theatre circuits was agreed upon at the annual meeting of the Ontario Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada today, with a representative gathering enthusiastic on a trade unity program.

Ben Freedman of Long Branch was reelected president and the new vice-president is Harry Lester of Toronto. Sam Strashin is treasurer and H. L. Romberg, secretary, both of Toronto, with Bruce McLeod of Kitchener, Tom Walton and Max Starkman, completing the board.

Personal Mention

(Other Personals on Page 2)

LEWEN PRIZOR, president of United M.P.T.O., Philadelphia, has left for Florida.

•

DAVID LAW, of the cashier's department for Warner theatres in Philadelphia, became the father of a son, DAVID ALLEN, born last week at Germantown Hospital.

•

MRS. MAXWELL GILLIS, wife of the Republic district manager in Philadelphia, underwent an operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

•

MILT GOODMAN, former Columbia salesman at Des Moines, has been made a lieutenant at Camp Breckenridge, Ky.

•

WILLIAM CROWLEY, manager of the Imperial-2nd St. Theatre, Philadelphia, will leave for the Navy today.

•

NAT LEVY, RKO-Radio Eastern division sales manager, was in Philadelphia yesterday.

Smith Again Heads Akron ATO Group

AKRON, O., Jan. 11.—The Independent Theatre Owners and Managers Association of Akron has elected the following: president, W. A. (Weary) Smith, owner of the Majestic Theatre; secretary, Frank Hensen, manager of Loew's; treasurer, Richard Romwebber of the State. Smith, who was president of the association in 1942, succeeds R. E. Paulus of the Spicer Theatre.

Cleveland Owners to Elect Tomorrow

CLEVELAND, Jan. 11.—The Cleveland M. P. Exhibitors Association will hold its annual election meeting, preceded by a buffet luncheon tomorrow. Guests of honor will be Mayor Frank J. Lausche; John Lokar, his secretary; and Martin G. Smith and P. J. Wood, president and secretary, respectively, of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio.

F-51 Anniversary Dinner

Local F-51, IATSE, New York film exchange employees union, held its first anniversary dinner and installation of officers at the Cafe Loyale here last evening. Officers installed included Jack Finkelstein, re-elected president; Agnes McLaughlin, vice-president; Angela Mazzei, financial secretary and treasurer; Gertrude Reiman, recording secretary; Murray Blutreich, sergeant-at-arms.

JACK SHAINDLIN
Musical Direction
MARCH OF TIME
UNIVERSAL PICTURES
PARAMOUNT NEWS
"SOUNDIES"

Howard, Pioneer Exhibitor, Dies

BOSTON, Jan. 11.—Frank J. Howard, 85, one of the first to show motion pictures for admission fees in New England, died here yesterday in Massachusetts Osteopathic Hospital after a brief illness.

Howard had been in retirement but still held the presidency of Princess Theatre Co., which has houses in Wakefield and Middleton. He was a sergeant in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery, a member of the Army and Navy Club and was a life member of the Masons.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Alice Lowd Howard; a daughter, Ensign Frances Howard O'Brien of the Waves; and an adopted son, James D. Howard.

Allen Inducted As Variety Club Barker

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—John S. Allen, M-G-M branch manager, was inducted yesterday as chief barker of the Variety Club at a luncheon in the Hotel Willard. Others taking office were: 1st assistant chief barker, Fred S. Kogod; 2nd assistant chief barker, J. E. Fontaine; treasurer, Sam Galanty; secretary, Jake Flax; directors, Carter Barron, Nathan D. Golden, George Crouch, Rudolph Berger, A. E. Lichtman, Vince Dougherty, Hardie Meakin, Sidney Lust, Harry Bachman, R. Wade Pearson and Sam Wheeler. The latter is retiring chief barker. Kogod was master of ceremonies, and Alvin Newmyer, counsel for the club, performed the ritual.

Chief Barker Allen announced new committees with the following as chairman: executive, Carter Barron; ways and means, Barron and Galanty; finance, Lichtman; membership, Golden; welfare, Berger; speakers, Meakin; entertainment, Kogod; publicity, Wheeler; house, Pearson; tickets and affairs, Lust; and a special committee on births, deaths, etc., Crouch.

WAC to Release Red Cross Film Jan. 27th

"At His Side," made by March of Time to aid in the coming Red Cross drive, will be released Jan. 27 by the War Activities Committee. It deals with Red Cross work on both battle and home fronts.

The WAC will also release 4th War Loan trailers as follows: Jan. 18, "Ginger Rogers Finds a Bargain" and the Technicolor trailer shield "We Bought Extra Bonds—4th War Loan"; Jan. 27, "Box Office Maisie," starring Ann Sothern. A new film bulletin, "Help Save Fighting Fuel" will be attached to all newsreels issued Jan. 20.

Bob Cooper in New Publicity Position

Bob Cooper who has been covering the Midwest and more recently handled publicity from the home office of United Artists, has been appointed Eastern publicity representative for Edward Small Productions.

Cooper will shortly leave on a trip covering principal key cities to contact newspapers and radio columnists in connection with the advance campaign on "The Life of Rudolph Valentino," forthcoming Small production.

Recognition for Managers—At Last

Chicago, Jan. 11. — Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, believes it a good idea to have luncheons and meetings for theatre managers instead of solely exhibitor-owners, when planning various campaigns. He concludes that they perform major duties in drives constantly coming up and are always ready to exert themselves to utmost to put these things over.

Lewellen Assigned To Paramount Studio

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 11.—W. C. Lewellen, Paramount district advertising representative, covering Dallas, Oklahoma City and Memphis, has been detached from field duties and assigned to the studio where he will handle exploitation on key pictures. The first of these will be "The Story of Dr. Wassell."

Lewellen, who will report to the studio, Jan. 31, will be suceeded at Dallas by Allan S. Glenn, one-time exploitation chief for First National Pictures. The latter started his new Dallas duties yesterday under the supervision of district manager John J. Donohue.

Frank Donovan Will Produce Own Shorts

Frank P. Donovan, former RKO Pathe shorts subject producer, who has been making promotional films for General Motors since 1941, has established Frank Donovan Associates with offices in the General Motors Bldg. here and will produce theatrical, documentary and industrial shorts.

Donovan told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday he expects to start in about two weeks. Production will be mostly in the East. He will also as time goes on specialize somewhat on shorts featuring children. Distribution has not been set.

Hadley on 20th-Fox Exploitation Staff

Robert Hadley has been added to the staff of 20th-Fox's field exploitation force and been assigned by exploitation manager Rodney Bush to the San Francisco office, where he will assist Eddie Yarbrough.

This is the fourth of 20th-Fox's 11 exploitation districts to obtain a two-man set-up. Ralph Stitt and Al Fowler handle New England; Spence Pierce and Leonard Allen, the Southeast; and Jay Frank and Mike Weiss, the Chicago-Detroit-Milwaukee area.

Scouts Support 'Aldrich'

The Boy Scouts of America, alumni of that organization and local Scout councils are being mobilized to support theatre presentations of "Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout," says Paramount. The film, made with the cooperation of the Scouts, has been set for theatre showings during "Boy Scout Week," Feb. 8-14.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 11

JOSEPH SCHENCK, state chairman for the industry's infantile paralysis campaign, will preside at a meeting of the studio colonels for the drive Thursday at the Roosevelt Hotel.

•

Boris Morros announced today he has acquired the film rights to "Of Thee I Sing" for a Technicolor musical; a deal with United Artists for distribution of the picture is being negotiated.

•

M-G-M has announced "Dear Barbara," which Miles Connolly is adapting from an original, Joseph Pasternak is producing with Henry Koster directing. Margaret O'Brien probably will have the lead.

•

Twentieth-Fox has announced "Sally and the Senator," co-starring Monty Woolley and Gracie Fields, an original comedy with Washington background.

•

Richard Sokolove has been appointed to succeed John Mock as Columbia's story editor. Frank Cleaver was named as his assistant.

•

Columbia has purchased "No Sad Songs for Me," the Ruth Southard novel; Victor Saville is producing.

•

Twentieth-Fox signed Boris Ingster yesterday to a producer-director writer contract.

•

RKO today gave the scenarist, Bert Granet, a producer contract.

Industry Group to Back Soldier Vote

The "Soldier Vote Committee of the Entertainment Industry" has been formed to join the fight for federal supervision of voting by U. S. armed forces. Joan Alexander, radio actress, is acting-chairman of the committee, John Coburn Turner is acting-secretary.

Formation of the committee was the result of a "spontaneous effort of 750 members of the entertainment industry of stage, screen, music and radio fields in New York and Hollywood," according to a statement released here yesterday by Billy Friedberg, Broadway publicist.

Pennsylvania ATO to Banquet Exhibitors

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 6.—Eastern Pennsylvania Allied Theatre Owners will hold a dinner for independent exhibitors in this area on Jan. 25 at the Warwick Hotel. The dinner will be in connection with ATO's sixth annual meeting.

Thomson With Morris

Kenneth Thomson, recently resigned as secretary of the Screen Actors Guild, a position he held for ten years, will join the William Morris Agency in New York on Friday. He will manage film players, directors and writers.

1,200 Additional Theatres Pledge Aid for 'Dimes'

(*Continued from page* 1)

tors in Louisiana say they expected at at least double last year's totals. In Georgia, with Lucas anid Jenkins taking audience collections, last year's $18,000 is expected to go over $36,000. Arthur Lehman, state chairman for Mississippi, says that with Richards-Paramount theatres taking collections, his state's returns are expected to triple.

L. C. Griffith reported at least a 25 per cent increase in pledges in Oklahoma.

Returning yesterday from March of Dimes meetings in Atlanta, New Orleans, Chicago and Dallas, were Oscar A. Doob, Edward Alperson, Harry Brandt and Dr. John L. Lavan, research director of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Tom Connors addressed a drive meeting in Philadelphia Monday with exhibitors pledging 100 per cent support. In the Chicago area, it is estimated there will be a 25 per cent increase in collections. John Friedl in Minneapolis made a similar prediction.

Theatres are urged to rush in their pledges so they may receive the gratis Greer Garson appeal trailer.

Roosevelt Asks for Labor Draft Law

(*Continued from page* 1)

bill now under consideration by Congress does not begin to meet this test of "realism," called for a revenue act "which will tax all unreasonable profits, both individual and corporate, and reduce the ultimate cost of the war to our sons and daughters."

Shortly after his message was read, the Senate took up the tax bill, carrying about one-fifth of the $10,500,000,000 asked for by the Treasury, with little indication that any consideration would be given his plea for increases.

It was voted to "freeze" prevailing Social Security rates for the remainder of 1944, thus allowing the House Ways and Means Committee to hold hearings on the question before the measure goes to conference. Also hoped for is disposal of the admission and other levies this week, so that sections dealing with renegotiation of war contracts may be taken up Monday.

Truckers Nearly Set With Truck Appeal

The distributors' group designated by the War Activities Committee to assist New York film deliveries—facing a breakdown—to secure priorities for truck replacements, met here yesterday in the office of H. M. Richey, assistant to William F. Rodgers, M-G-M sales head, to discuss supporting data in a report on the situation prepared by Harry Grayson, attorney representing the carriers. The final draft to support applications to be made for truck replacements, will be ready for submission to the Office of Defense Transportation within a few days. The report includes a breakdown record of trucks in and out of service.

Broadway Managers Make Plans for 4th Bond Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

for New York State, who stressed the fact that while the great bombardment of exploitation stunts in the past has been criticized in some quarters, it has nevertheless been found to be of much positive value.

Edward R. Alperson, who has charge of the theatre campaign in Greater New York, called on each exhibitor to put his several crews of ushers in competition with each other, holding pep meetings and offering prizes.

B. V. Sturdivant, representing national industry chairman Charles P. Skouras, said he had just completed a tour of the country and found every section watching New York to see what kind of campaign would be laid down here.

Suggests Bond Ad

In the open forum that followed, toastmaster Irving Lesser, of the Roxy, suggested that exhibitors curtail their regular advertising space by about 10 percent and devote the space thus saved into a war-bond ad. Donald McInerney and Irving Windisch, press agents of the Paramount and Strand respectively, were appointed to get the other publicity men together to work this out.

Tentatively approved was the plan to erect in the "island"at Times Square a billboard depicting a giant floor plan, the aggregate seating capacity of the Broadway houses, with portions of it to be painted out from time to time as "a bond for every seat" is sold. Robert M. Weitman, managing director of the Paramount, was appointed to form a committee on this stunt.

Canadian Industry Calls Bond Meeting

TORONTO, Jan. 11.—President J. J. Fitzgibbons of the Famous Players Canadian Corp., as chairman of the Motion Picture War Services Committee, has called a meeting of an executive sub-committee with federal finance officials to offer full cooperation of the Canadian film industry for the sixth Canadian Victory Loan Drive, scheduled for April. The theme and details of bond subscriptions and solicitations will be revealed at the meeting.

The organization, embracing all exchange and theatre operators, has taken preliminary steps for an all-out program of assistance through trailers, displays, stunts and personal work at the expense of the film trade.

Bond Drive Leaders Arrive in New York

Charles P. Skouras, national industry chairman for the 4th War Loan Drive, F. H. Ricketson, vice-chairman and A. J. Krappmann, assistant national campaign director, arrived in New York yesterday to open campaign headquarters at the War Activities Committee offices in the Paramount building.

Regular WAC official staff including Francis S. Harmon, Arthur Mayer, Si Fabian, Herman Gluckman and Ed Schrieber have moved their offices to new headquarters on the 13th floor of the building with the possibility that the move may be permanent.

30 Pre-Showings of 'None Shall Escape'

Thirty pre-release engagements in New England have been set for Columbia's "None Shall Escape," said to be the first picture to deal with post-war trials of Nazi war criminals. The film was screened last night in the Columbia home office for 45 Polish leaders. Poland is the locale of the picture's action.

An earlier screening was held for New England theatre executives and representatives of the press and radio, in Boston.

UIE Committee Meet Mochrie Tomorrow

The Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors film committee here is scheduled to meet tomorrow with Robert Mochrie, RKO general sales manager, and Robert S. Wolff, New York branch manager, to present and discuss some local exhibitor trade problems.

Emphasis will be placed on certain RKO sales policies relating to percentage pictures, film shortages, reissues and selling of shorts.

Robert Condon to WAC

Robert Condon, formerly with 20th-Fox and *Time Magazine* and who recently received a medical discharge from the Army, has joined the War Activities Committee as assistant to executive vice-chairman Francis S. Harmon.

Preston Feted by Circuit Associates

Lew Preston, supervisor for Interboro Theatres in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, was given a testimonial dinner this week by associates.

Bert King, public relations director with the Fabian circuit, was toastmaster at the affair, held at a Bay Ridge restaurant. Present were Mike Weschner, Al Hatoff, Mack Shapiro, Joe Klein, Mike Wexelblatt, M. J. Neary, Mirian Bullick, Max Schoenberg, I. Miller, Joe Weiss, Sadie Goldberg, Joe Rittenberg, Julius Czeisler, Jack Rialo, Pvt. James Pisapia and Chester Friedman, chairman of *Motion Picture Herald's* "Round Table Club."

Lehman Sells RKO, Buys Para. Stock

A report by Robert Lehman, president of the Lehman Corp., New York bankers, reveals the sale during last year of numerous stock holdings, including 35,265 shares of RKO. This would represent a transaction of $299,752, according to the stock's latest listing at about $8.50 per share. Also sold were 29,771 RKO warrants. These are now listed at $1.50 each, which would place total warrants sale at $44,656.

Among the corporation's 1943 purchases were 4,000 shares of Paramount common. The present price of this issue is about $24.25 each, giving the shares bought a total value of $97,000.

High Taxes Curb Sale of Film Rights

(*Continued from page* 1)

spreads out monetary returns and likewise reduces income tax levies under those which an outright sale in a single large lump payment would entail.

Whereas outright payments from producing companies were acceptable several years ago, other methods of payment have been sought by play sellers recently. One of the most popular is the spreading of flat payments over a number of years. Authors and producers are understood to have even sought to have a sale classified as a sale of a capital asset for tax purposes, to reduce tax levies, The Government is said to have taken a position recently against this, ruling that the sale of a play is not the sale of a capital asset.

Down Payments Made

Under the more acceptable percentage participation method the studio purchaser makes a down payment against a percentage of either the net or the gross of the film. Since the selling author and producer of a play usually insist upon setting a date before a film based on a play can be released (sometimes as much as a year and a half in advance), payments are spread over an even longer period than the ordinary exhibition life of a film.

Another method of sale, which is understood to meet with Government tax approval is the leasing of a property to a film company for a number of years, usually seven, on an annual "rental."

Wm. Crouch Heads Soundies Production

William Forest Crouch, production and promotion manager for Soundies Distributing Corp., Chicago, will establish headquarters in New York shortly to become executive producer of Soundies in charge of production. During the past year, Crouch has produced and directed more than 100 musical shorts.

Soundies, last week, acquired Minoco Studios in the Bronx, John T. Doran will be general manager of the studio. Soundies, in addition to making musical shorts for "juke boxes" will also enter into regular entertainment, commercial and educational films. Jack Barry, recently resigned as president of Minoco, a Soundies subsidiary, to head Eagle Productions.

Demands Presented 20th-Fox by SOEG

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 11.—Twentieth Century-Fox yesterday was presented demands that the Screen Office Employes' Guild be recognized as a collective bargaining agency for office and clerical workers employed by the studio. The demands were presented to Fred Meyer, studio manager, by Glenn Pratt, business representative of SOPEG and Herbert Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions.

Paramount, Warner Bros. and other major companies are not under contract with SOEG.

Hollywood

Hollywood, Jan. 11

ALTHOUGH he has not yet set a Western star to replace William Boyd as Hopalong Cassidy, Harry A. Sherman is going ahead with plans for the next Hoppy, now that the 56th with Boyd in the lead has been completed. The new one will be "One Man Posse," reportedly most costly of all the Hoppys; it is an original by Joel Alstine with Michael Wilson scripting in collaboration with Alstine.

Reports that Dick Dickson, rodeo star who served "in charge of production" on Sherman's "The Woman of the Town," may take over the Hopalong role, cannot be confirmed.

•

PRC production will reach an unprecedented figure this month with five "high-budget" pictures going to work, as well as four Westerns, Leon Fromkess reports. Features ready for the cameras are "Lady in the Death House," "The Devil's Apprentice," "Waterfront," "Minstrel Man" and "Dixie Showboat."

•

Raymond Chandler has finished the script of the Loretta Young starrer, "And Now Tomorrow," at Paramount, and will take four months off to write a book before reporting under his new contract in April. . . . Mitchell Leisen will direct "Practically Yours," Norman Krasna comedy, for Harry Tugend at Paramount. . . . Warners has renewed Monte Blue's contract for another year. His next role will be an informer in "Mask for Dimitrios." . . . M-G-M has changed the title of "America" to "An American Story."

•

Three new short subjects have been added to Gordon Hollingshead's 1944 schedule at Warners. They are "Life and Music of Stephen Foster," "The Trial in Tom Belcher's Store" and "Don't Sell 'em Short." . . . Tim Murdock, medically discharged U. S. Marine, has been signed for a role in "Thirty Second Over Tokyo" at M-G-M. . . . Producer Seymour Nebenzahl has his "Strange Confessions" for United Artists release on the stages.

•

Twentieth Century-Fox starts off the first month of the year with six before the cameras. Three new ones just put in work include William Girard's "Ladies in Washington," directed by Louis King; "I Married a Soldier," with Otto Preminger producing and directing, and Girard's "Bermuda Mystery," with Ben Stoloff directing. Others in work include "The Purple Heart," "Greenwich Village" and "Wilson."

•

Paramount has 12 pictures in the cutting rooms, five on the stages, and 22 properties being readied under supervision of executive producer B. G. DeSylva for starting this week. . . . Universal has set Jean Yarbrough to produce "South of Dixie," starting late this month. . . . Lana Turner starrer, "Marriage Is a Private Affair," with Robert Z. Leonard directing, started yesterday at M-G-M, where four others are now before the cameras, and Leon Gordon's production of "Mrs. Parkington," with Greer Garson starred, rolls on Feb. 3.

Reviews

"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood, Jan. 11

IN a direct bid for the attention of Boy Scouts and persons interested in Scoutcraft—who could hardly ask for more informative material—producer Walter MacEwen has taken humor out of the Aldrich series for this trip to the screen and has substituted seriousness, documentation and demonstration of principles. The resultant product, doubtless engrossing entertainment for Boy Scouts and unquestionably destined to stimulate recruiting in that organization, is severely limited as to general appeal and commercial usefulness.

With limitations noted, Muriel Roy Holton's script, from Agnes Christine Johnston's story, has its values. It parallels in essence the pattern, familiar in early service pictures, in which discipline applied by companions in training brings the smart-aleck recalcitrant rookie to the ultimate realization of his responsibilities. Darryl Hickman plays the smart-aleck in this case.

Jimmy Lydon, Charles Smith and other members of the standing Aldrich family cast, are again present, flanked by supporting players who pass muster, as directed by Hugh Bennett, under the restraints imposed by the objective.

Running time, 67 mins. Released in block 3. "G."*

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Westward Bound"

(*Monogram*)

Hollywood, Jan. 11

REGULAR patrons of the Hitching Post Theatre, Hollywood's temple of rawhide opera, received this Hoot Gibson-Ken Maynard-Bob Steele melodrama, with enthusiasm. Harry Woods provides the villainy which the Trail Blazers frustrate, and Betty Niles furnishes the feminine interest.

The screenplay is by Elizabeth Beecher and Francis Kavanagh, from an original by Robert Emmett and Kavanaugh. The action takes place in the Big Horn territory, which Woods, as the town banker, knows is about to be annexed by the State of Montana. Believing that land values will soar, Woods and his gang set out to run the ranchers off and seize the land. They try all the tricks; poison the wells, wire off the waterholes, raise the taxes; and are about to succeed when the Trail Blazers hit town. Woods makes the mistake of appointing Maynard marshal, whereupon the cowboy and his friends turn the tables on the villains and bring the picture to a blazing climax by driving the gang out of town with dynamite. Robert Tansey produced and directed according to Western formula, with plenty of laughs, fast action and fisticuffs.

Running time, 59 minutes. "G."* Release date, Jan. 17. THALIA BELL

"The Courageous Mr. Penn"

(*Esquire-Hoffberg*)

ILLUMINATING one of the pages of American history, this picturization of the early life of the founder of Pennsylvania should have a strong appeal to youngsters of school age as well as adult audiences. William Penn, remembered by most as a rather wooden figure in history books, is brought to flesh-and-blood reality in this well-written, intelligently directed film.

Clifford Evans, as the son of Admiral Penn, who turned his back on the licentious life in the court of Charles II to become a Quaker, gives a sincere and convincing performance, doubly effective as a result of consistent understatement. Deborah Kerr as his wife is attractive and charming. Dennis Arundell as King Charles II makes much of the role.

An important part of the film deals with Penn's trial before the Lord Mayor of London, after being jailed for his preaching. After his release from prison, Penn married Gulielma Springett and they lived happily together for four or five years when the persecutions of his fellow Quakers decided him to seek to establish a colony in America where he would "conquer with kindness and rule with love."

Produced by Richard Vernon, the film is ably directed by Lance Comfort. Original script is by Anatole de Grunwald. There are excellent bits of photography. Appropriate musical score, by William Allwyn, is performed by the London Symphony Orchestra.

Running time, 78 mins. "G."* Release in March '44.

BILL BRINKERHOFF

*"G" denotes general classification.

Short Subject Reviews

"Community Sing"

(*Columbia*)

Number four in the current "Community Sing" series features some catchy tunes which the audience should enjoy. Even trade reviewers sang along with The Song Spinners and Dick Leibert when the picture was reviewed. Numbers include "When My Baby Smiles at Me," "Do It Now," "I'm in Love with a Beautiful Girl," "It Can't Be Wrong" and "The Covered Wagon Rolled Right Along." This short will find a good spot on any film program. Produced by B. K. Blake. Running time, 8 mins.

'Mountain Anglers'

(*RKO-Pathe*)

This Pathe "Sportscope" depicts Rogue's River, in the West, as a fisherman's paradise. Steel-nosed trout make their way upstream, through treacherous rapids, to spawning grounds and there mountain anglers catch them in great numbers. William Deeke's camera technique is excellent. He has recorded many pictures of mountain scenic splendor. Frederic C. Ullman, Jr., produced. Joe Walsh directed, and capably so. Running time, 9 mins.

"To My Unborn Son"

(*M-G-M*)

A fine film version of the widely publicized letter of the Yugoslav guerilla fighter to his unborn child. "To My Unborn Son" has the power to inspire, awe and bring tears to the eyes. Dramatic scenes were done to perfection by director Leslie Kardos. A musical background adds much to a timely and well-treated subject. Running time, 9 mins.

"Through the Colorado Rockies"

(*M-G-M*)

This FitzPatrick Traveltalk depicts the beauties of Colorado and the Rocky Mountains, in Technicolor. The film brings out the wonders of Pike's Peak, the Garden of the Gods and the fisherman's "heaven," as Gunnison River is called. The commentary is excellent and the musical score is fitting. Running time, 9 mins.

'What's Buzin, Buzzard?'

(*M-G-M*)

A Technicolor cartoon about two starving birds of prey as they eye each other as a prospective meal. A rabbit interrupts them while they are fighting to kill each other in a desperate attempt to satiate the pangs of hunger. Musical background is good; so is the clever theme. Amusing and entertaining. Running time, 8 mins.

"Brothers In Blood"

(*M-G-M*)

This Carey Wilson miniature gives a brief over-all history of blood transfusion. It is dramatic and inspiring in its treatment of the subject. The film will do well as a help for the Red Cross blood donors' drive. Running time, 10 mins.

'True to Life' Does $23,000 at Capital

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—"Destination Tokyo" in its second week at Warner's Earle, is holding its own neatly with an $18,000 gross, while top money honors for the week go to "True to Life" at Loew's Capitol, which should do $23,000 on its first week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 13:

"True to Life" (Para.)
LOEW'S CAPITOL—(3,434) (28c-39c-44c-66c) 7 days. On the stage: Carlos Molina. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $22,000.)

"As Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S COLUMBIA—(1,234) (30c-50c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $7,000).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER'S EARLE—(2,210) (30c-40c-50c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. On stage: Sibyl Bowan. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,800).

"Government Girl" (RKO)
RKO-KEITH'S—(1,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days, 3rd downtown week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,800).

"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
WARNER'S METROPOLITAN—(1,600) (30c-44c) 7 days, 3rd downtown week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,900).

"The Gang's All Here" (2th-Fox)
LOEW'S PALACE—(2,242) (28c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. Average: $17,600).

Warners Suing SAG On 'Canteen' Curb

(*Continued from page* 1)

said the suit names SAG, Inc., James Cagney, president, John Dales, Jr., executive secretary, and each member of the board of directors. Files said the complaint recites the adoption of the basic agreement in 1937 "wherein the industry began operating as a closed shop," points out the "basic agreement provided that the Guild would not adopt any rules or code for actors that would violate the basic agreement" but "on or about August 31, 1943, the Guild adopted the new Rule 33" and charges the "basic agreement had fixed minimum salaries, and adoption of Rule 33 violated the basic agreement in that it denied to members and also to producers the right to bargain independently for salaries in excess of the minimum provided by the basic agreement."

SAG Will Fight to Finish

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 11.—SAG executive secretary Jack Dales, Jr., told MOTION PICTURE DAILY tonight that the Guild will fight the Warners suit to the finsh. He also said that the SAG board today had revised Rule 33 in such a way as to enable the Guild to grant waivers to players who petition for them.

Dale said the Guild had notified Harry Warner of this revision prior to Warner's filing suit; also that waivers had been granted Bette Davis and Kay Kyser, for "Hollywood Canteen."

Century Expands

Century Projector Corp. is moving its factory from Julius St., Brooklyn, to 32-02 Queens Blvd., Long Island City, the change being necessitated by increased war production. Century is devoting practically 95 percent of its manufacturing facilities to machine guns and gunnery trainers.

Review

"None Shall Escape"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, Jan. 11

PRECEDENTIALLY important, tradewise, as the first picture dealing with the post-war world, producer Samuel Bischoff's presentation of a post-armistice trial by a United Nations' tribunal in Warsaw, conducted to fix the guilt and set the punishment of a Nazi instrumental in the debasement of Poland, "None Shall Escape" offers blistering evidence of criminality but ends inconclusively with the Nazi declaring that the Allied victory is only temporary and with the chief magistrate addressing the camera while placing the case in the hands of the audience.

Apart from the effectiveness in underscoring the horror of Nazi practices, exposed less starkly in earlier films, the picture adds nothing consequential to the technique of anti-Nazi pictures, but does raise a question as to whether the entertainment screen can deal successfully with Postwar issues at this point on the calendar.

The script by Lester Cole, from a story by Alfred Neuman and Joseph Thaw, opens in a courtroom, after the war has ended, with the United Nations' tribunal putting the accused Nazi on the stand. It then dips back to show him committing rape, robbery, treason, individual murder and mass slaughter, in 1919, 1923, 1929, 1939 and throughout World War II, these revelations coming in flashback sequence as witnesses give testimony under studied direction by Andre De Togh. A capable cast, headed by Alexander Knox, Marsha Hunt, Henry Travers and Richard Crane performs with skill, the extreme requirements of the story going beyond most in candor. Burt Kelly served as associate producer.

The final sequence thwarts the entertainment objective to a considerable extent by presenting the unrepentant Nazi's speech of defiance and the chief magistrate's address to the audience in simple, unresolved succession, ending the film in wordage instead of decisive outcome.

Running time, 85 mins. Release date not set. "A."*

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"A" denotes adult classification.*

M-G-M Aiding Small Houses Hit by War

(*Continued from page* 1)

benefit the theatre and company, but also the industry at large," said a company statement yesterday, "because suggestions adopted by exhibitors are not confined to pictures bearing the Leo trade mark but to other picture companies as well."

General supervision of M-G-M's plan for small town theatres is under the direction of Dietz and William R. Ferguson, exploitation manager, who with sales executives, set up the itinerary of each field-man to carry through ideas that will tend to build up "lame" grosses. C. E. (Eddie) Carrier, home office exploitation representative, has been contacting the first group of exhibitors.

M-G-M, which has a permanent field exploitation force, will soon assign other representatives to a number of new situations now being lined up. Additional services are being extended by the M-G-M home office advertising, publicity and exploitation departments where such services are found to be of advantage.

Will Honor Moss at Drive Lunch Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

vid Weinstock, co-chairman of the committee, and then turned over to co-chairman Leo Brecher, who will introduce the speakers. These include Norman S. Goetz, general chairman of the federation's fund drive; Samuel Rinzler, head of Randforce Amusements, and Commissioner Moss. The commissioner will outline the highlights of the exhibitor group's efforts to aid the campaign.

'U' Elects Work And German to Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

Brulatour, Inc., distributor of Eastman Kodak motion picture raw stock. He began with Eastman at Rochester in 1906 in the cost accounting department, eventually being placed in charge of planning and distribution. In 1921 he became manager of G. M. Laboratories in Long Island City and Paragon and San Jacq laboratories in Fort Lee, N. J. He joined Jules Brulatour here in 1922.

Work and German are new additions to the board of the picture company. Other members are: Nate J. Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, Daniel C. Collins, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, J. J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutzman, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Sheaffer and Willis H. Taylor, Jr.

(Comment on the election of Work and German to the Universal board will be found in *Insider's Outlook*, on Page 2 of this issue.)

Copyright Appeals To Be Heard Jan. 21

(*Continued from page* 1)

recognition in Canada of the American Performing Rights Society of New York and will seek 30 per cent reduction in fees collected by the Canadian Performing Rights Society and the Canadian BMI.

Norman Robertson, Toronto lawyer and director of Famous Players Canadian Corp., will present a brief before the board on behalf of music users.

'Children' Hits $10,000 Above Par in Slump

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—"Where Are Your Children?" and "Unknown Guest" at the Garrick are doing outstanding business in an otherwise very poor week. A gross of $18,000 is expected. Snow and cold weather have been an adverse influence.

Estimated reecipts for the week ending Jan. 14:

"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
APOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average, $10,600))

"Young Ideas" (M-G-M)
CHICAGO—(4,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Johnny Long and his orchestra. Gross: $42,000. (Average, $45,000)

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Unknown Guest" (Mono.)
GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average, $8,700)

"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week in Loop. Gross: $7,000. (Average, $8,900)

"She's for Me" (Univ.)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days, 2nd Loop run. Stage: Hal McIntyre and his orchestra. Gross: $25,000. (Average, $23,400)

"A Lady Takes a Chance" (RKO)
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
PALACE—(2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average, $20,000)

"Sahara" (Col.)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average, $19,200)

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STATE-LAKE—(2,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average, $22,600)

"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average, $19,200)

"Gangs, Inc." (PRC) 2 days
"The Heat's On" (Col.) 5 days
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-85c). Gross: $13,000. (Average, $10,000)

Wilson Is Republic Production Chief

(*Continued from page* 1)

company until 1937 when he took over as studio head and president. He became affiliated with the industry in 1920 when he joined Selznick Pictures.

Wilson will have four key men supervising various departments: Howard J. Sheehan has been appointed assistant to Wilson. Charles Lootens, former maintenance head, will be manager of the production department. Armand Schaefer has been named supervising producer of features, including Roy Rogers' productions. Schaefer was "dean" of producers at the studio, said the company. William J. O'Sullivan, who has long been associated with production, will be supervising producer of Westerns and serials.

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Dec. 18	KLONDIKE KATE Tom Neal Ann Savage D	(Second Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)	SMART GUY Rick Vallin D—63 mins. (227)	(Second Block) RIDING HIGH (Technicolor) Dorothy Lamour Dick Powell Victor Moore M—89 mins. (4307)	THE DRIFTER Buster Crabbe Al "Fuzzy" St. John (461) JIVE JUNCTION Dickie Moore Tina Thayer M—65 mins. (407)	PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA Ruth Terry Robert Livingston C Wally Vernon RAIDERS OF SUNSET PASS O—56 mins.	(First Block) A LADY TAKES A CHANCE Jean Arthur John Wayne C—(405)			CALLING DR. DEATH Lon Chaney Patricia Morrison Ramsey Ames D—63 mins. (8026)	
Dec. 25	COWBOY IN THE CLOUDS Charles Starrett Walter "Dub" Taylor	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)		NO TIME FOR LOVE Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray Ilka Chase C—83 mins. (4309)		WHISPERING FOOTSTEPS John Hubbard D—56 mins. OH, MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Frank Albertson C—69c mins.	THE FALLEN SPARROW Maureen O'Hara John Garfield D—(401)	THE GANG'S ALL HERE Carmen Miranda Alice Faye James Ellison 103 mins. (416) (Technicolor)	JACK LONDON D Michael O'Shea Susan Hayward 93 mins.	MOONLIGHT IN VERMONT Gloria Jean Fay Helm Sidney Miller Ray Malone D—62 mins. (8025)	
Jan. 1	WHAT A WOMAN Rosalind Russell Brian Aherne Willard Parker D—93 mins.	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)		HENRY ALDRICH HAUNTS A HOUSE Jimmy Lydon Charles Smith John Litel C—73 mins. (4306)	THE TEXAS RANGERS IN GUNSMOKE MESA James Newill (453)	CALIFORNIA JOE Don "Red' Barry Helen Talbot Wally Vernon O	ADVENTURES OF A ROOKIE Wally Brown Allen Carney C—(402)		THE WOMAN OF THE TOWN Albert Dekker Claire Trevor D—88 mins.	GUNG HO Randolph Scott Alan Curtis David Bruce Noah Beery, Jr. D—88 mins.	
Jan. 8		A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)	WOMEN IN BONDAGE Gail Patrick D—71 mins. (303)		CAREER GIRL Frances Langford M—66 mins. (403)	PRIDE OF THE PLAINS Bob Livingston Smiley Burnette O HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Roy Rogers O—74 mins. (341)	THE SEVENTH VICTIM Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(403)	THE LODGER Merle Oberon George Sanders Laird Cregar D—84 mins. (417)		SING A JINGLE Allan Jones June Vincent Samuel S. Hinds M—62 mins. (8034)	DESTINATION TOKYO Cary Grant John Garfield D—135 mins. (309)
Jan. 15	THE RACKET MAN Tom Neal Jeanne Bates Hugh Beaumont D—64 mins.	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417) RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—(418)	WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN Jackie Cooper D—72 mins. (302) SULTAN'S DAUGHTER Ann Corio C—64 mins. (888)	MINESWEEPER Richard Arlen Jean Parker D—67 mins. (4308)			SO THIS IS WASHINGTON Lum & Abner C—(404)		THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS Anna Sten Kent Smith D—79 mins.	ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES (in Technicolor) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—87 mins.	
Jan. 22	SWING OUT THE BLUES Bob Haymes Lynn Merrick M—70 mins.	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—115 mins. (419)	WESTWARD BOUND Hoot Gibson Ken Maynard O—(362)	(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)	NABONGA Buster Crabbe Fifi D'Orsay Barton MacLane D—(408)	ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RHYTHM Gene Autry (Re-issue) O (3301)	(Second Block) THE IRON MAJOR Pat O'Brien D—85 mins. (406)	UNCENSORED (Made in England) Phyllis Calvert Griffiths Jones D—83 mins. (418)		SPIDER WOMAN Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce Gale Sondergaard D—62 mins. (8021)	
Jan. 29	BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKE Joan Davis John Hubbard C	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—(420)	WHAT A MAN Johnnie Downs C—66 mins. (228) RAIDERS OF THE BORDER Johnny Mack Brown O—(352)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)		WOMEN IN WAR Elsie Janis D	GANGWAY FOR TOMORROW Margo Robert Ryan D—(407)	LIFEBOAT Talullah Bankhead William Bendix D—96 mins. (419)	KNICKER-BOCKER HOLIDAY Nelson Eddy Charles Coburn D	PHANTOM LADY Franchot Tone Ella Raines Alan Curtis D	
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE Marsha Hunt Alexander Knox D	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)	SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315)	THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—(409)		GOVERNMENT GIRL Olivia De Havilland Sonny Tufts D—(408)			SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	FRONTIER OUTLAW Buster Crabbe O—(462)		GILDERSLEEVE ON BROADWAY Harold Peary Billie Burke C—65 mins. (409)		THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D	
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	VODOO MAN Beli Lugosi D	TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)	THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (Made in England) D—(413)		THE FALCON AND THE CO-EDS Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(410)			WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C	MADAM CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D				NORTH STAR Anne Baxter Walter Huston Dana Andrews D—105 mins. (451)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell George Sanders D	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Peggy Ryan M	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: M

DO NOT REMOVE

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 9 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1944 TEN CENTS

Kelly Drops U.A. Foreign Sales Post

Will Handle Company's Television Plans

Arthur W. Kelly, now in London, where he has been reported conferring for the past week with J. Arthur Rank on proposals for the acquisition by the latter of a financial interest in United Artists, will relinquish his post as supervisor of foreign sales for U. A., the company announced here yesterday. Kelly will continue as vice-president and a member of the Board of U. A. and, effective immediately, will supervise all television activities of the company, the announcement stated.

Walter Gould, foreign manager of U. A., will continue in that capacity, the company stated, adding that "no indication has been given by the company owners as to whether the post is to be filled at this time or in the future." Kelly assumed the post of foreign sales supervisor on a temporary basis following the resignation more

(*Continued on page* 10)

N.Y. Trade Lauds Moss at Luncheon

In appreciation of his "distinguished services to the industry and loyalty to the philanthropies of the community," Paul Moss, New York's license commissioner, was presented with a scroll of honor by Harry Brandt at a Federation luncheon yesterday. It was attended by 450 members of the amusement-film industry at the Hotel Astor.

Moss was guest of honor at the luncheon tendered by the theatre owners' committee of Federation's amusement division as part of the Jewish philanthropic organization's campaign

(*Continued on page* 11)

Senate Delays Tax Action Till Friday

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The Senate today passed over the question of admission taxes during its consideration of the new revenue bill and postponed debate on the finance committee proposal for a rate of one cent on each five cents, until tomorrow.

During the course of its consideration of the new tax measure, the Senate disposed of a large number of amendments on which there was no

(*Continued on page* 10)

Justice Department Eyes Rank's Plans

Washington, Jan. 12.—The anti-trust division of the Department of Justice is observing current discussions in New York and London, looking to the acquisition by J. Arthur Rank of an interest in American distribution companies. The department's interest in the situation is in line with a determined campaign to stamp out cartels if possible before the end of the war, so that the post-war world may be one of "free and uninhibited competition."

PRC Distributors Protest Increases

Producers Releasing Corp. franchise holders who have in their original distributing contracts a commitment for a guaranty on each picture, the negative cost not to exceed $25,000, are protesting proportionate increases being sought for each territory by the company on pictures exceeding that cost, it was learned yesterday.

The exchange operators are said to feel that if such a policy is to be pursued they should have a voice in management policies and operations, including production, and should participate in company profits. Failing

(*Continued on page* 11)

POSTWAR AID OF U.S. IS CERTAIN

Mayer Advises Army On Films for U.S. War Plant Workers

Arthur L. Mayer will become industrial film adviser to the War Department at the specific request of Robert P. Patterson, Under-Secretary of War. Mayer was recommended for the post by a special committee appointed by Patterson consisting of Tom Connors, 20th Century-Fox vice-president, Leonard Goldenson, Paramount vice-president, and Lt. Col. Emanuel Cohen of the Army Pictorial Service.

The move is understood to have

(*Continued on page* 10)

Building Hurdles Stay for Duration

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Restrictions on new construction and facilities are to be continued without modification until the probable future course of the war becomes clearer, it was announced today by WPB chairman Donald W. Nelson. He dis-

(*Continued on page* 10)

May Reveal Extent of Collaboration with Industry Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Postwar cooperation by the State Department is assured the industry and may include a motion picture division which would be set up within the Department under Assistant Secretary Breckinridge Long, it was learned today.

A preliminary report on the extent to which the Department's collaboration with the industry may go is expected to be placed before the presidents and foreign department managers of the companies at a meeting at MPPDA headquarters in New York tomorrow morning, which will be followed by a luncheon meeting at the Harvard Club there. It is expected that Thomas Burke of the State Department's division of international

(*Continued on page* 10)

Ray Johnston's 30th Anniversary Today

W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram Pictures Corp., today will observe his 30th anniversary in the industry, a continuous period within the field of indepeundent operations.



W. Ray Johnston

Johnston joined W. E. Shallenberger, who later organized Arrow Film Corp., Jan. 13, 1914, and soon after became assistant to Charles J. Hite in the old Thanhouser Film Corp., which made "The Million Dollar Mystery"

(*Continued on page* 11)

Gross from 2 Will Top a Previous 48

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 12. — Monogram will gross more on two of this season's productions than it did on the entire program of 48 films two years ago, according to Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager. The pictures are "Where Are Your Children?", first of the current child-

(*Continued on page* 11)

Cowdin and 'U' Chiefs To Plan for Post-War

Blackouts Held To Coastal Areas

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Practice air raids and blackouts involving public participation were suspended tonight by the War Department and Office of Civilian Defense in all sections of the country except the coastal areas, where they will be held hereafter no oftener than once in three months and then only on Sundays.

The War Department emphasized that its decision "is not an indication the war is over as far as the continental United States is concerned" and warned drills may be resumed at any time should the strategical situation change.

The purpose of the relaxation of civilian defense activities is to decrease interference with production of war material.

J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board of Universal Pictures, left here yesterday for the Coast to project extensive plans for Universal's participation in the post-war world.



J. Cheever Cowdin

He will meet with other Universal executives in Universal City to confer and outline a peace-time program for the company. "Motion pictures will play a tremendous part in the post-war world," Cowdin stated before leaving.

(*Continued on page* 10)

Personal Mention

BUDD ROGERS left New York yesterday for Boston and will return on Friday.

•

ANNE REGINE NOONE of the Comerford accounting department in Scranton, Pa., was married to STAFF SGT. JOHN J. CARROLL in Holy Cross Church there. CARROLL was a member of Comerford's booking department.

•

PATRICIA ANN IVERS was born Tuesday morning to Mr. and Mrs. JAMES D. IVERS at the Methodist Episcopal hospital in Brooklyn. IVERS is news editor of *Motion Picture Herald.*

•

BEBE GELBER, daughter of HERMAN GELBER, president of Local 306, IATSE, was married yesterday to LT. SEYMOUR BEDER, of the U. S. Army Air Forces.

•

G. B. J. FRAWLEY, assistant to NEIL AGNEW, Paramount general sales manager, has been re-elected president of the New York Athletic Club.

•

ASA HONSINGER of United Artists' exchange in Montreal, has been promoted to booker in the St. Johns office.

•

DOUGLAS V. ROSEN, United Artists' Winnipeg branch manager, has been elected president of the Winnipeg Film Board of Trade.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M eastern and southern sales manager, left yesterday for St. Petersburg, Fla., for a vacation.

•

DON MCELWAINE of the M-G-M Coast studio publicity office is in New York for a visit.

400 in Industry Hear Coe in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Jan. 12.—Some 400 business men, circuit heads, exhibitors and exchange men attended a meeting of the local Advertisers Club today to hear Charles Frances Coe, MPPDA executive vice-president here from New York, trace the history of the motion picture industry from its beginning, stressing the importance of production and exhibition to the war effort.

Introduced by Mayor James Garfield Stewart, Coe also addressed theatre men later in connection with local activities in the 4th War Loan Drive.

Schenck Is Delayed, Loew Meet Postponed

Loew's, Inc., monthly board of directors' meeting, scheduled this week was not held because of the inability of Nicholas Schenck, president, to reach New York from Miami. The meeting has been tentatively scheduled for next Tuesday or Wednesday. Date for the Loew's annual stockholders meeting will be determined at that meeting.

Peter Burnup, Newspaperman and Critic, Becomes QP London Editor

Peter Burnup, special writer and war correspondent of *"News of the World,"* London, has been appointed London editor of Quigley Publications, succeeding the late Aubrey Flanagan.

Burnup studied at Winchester Durham University and also made post-graduate studies at Oxford University. His initial journalistic assignment was as a member of the editorial staff of *"The Manchester Guardian."* Subsequently he went to London and joined the Hulton newspaper group. He served in the British Army from 1914 to 1918 and following demobilization joined the Northcliffe Press as film critic of *"The Sunday Dispatch"* and *"The Daily Mail."* Subsequently he was editor of *"Era"* and member of several committees engaged in preparation of the Film Quota Act of 1938. He has been associated with *"News of the World"* since 1939.

Burnup is the husband of Hope Burnup, manager of the London Bureau of Quigley Publications.

Governors to Appeal For Loan Drive Aid

To inaugurate the 4th War Loan Drive, the War Activities Committee here discloses it is expected that governors of the 48 states will each issue a special proclamation on Jan. 16 at the suggestion of the industry's bond committee containing a message urging the people of their states to meet and pass their bond quotas.

Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the fifth industry's campaign, yesterday urged all War Finance Committee chairmen to cooperate closely with state exhibitor chairmen in efforts to secure proclamations from the governors, and from all indications, the Treasury Department will be in receipt of all 48 for the opening of the drive.

Included in the context of the proclamations will be reference to the film industry's effort in the drive, and one personality, probably the late Carole Lombard, will be singled out as a symbol of the work that industry members undertake in all bond drives, the WAC statement said.

It is important, it was pointed out, to have all the proclamations "break" on the same day, so that maximum publicity may be obtained for the drive.

Skouras, Other Bond Leaders At Rally in Boston Today

BOSTON, Jan. 12.—Following Philadelphia's recent decision, all exchanges will close down tomorrow from 10 to three as the local industry foregathers to learn of final plans for New England's participation in the Fourth War Loan Drive.

The turnout at the Salle Moderne of the Hotel Statler will be one of the most representative in the annals of the local industry. Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry's drive, will be the chief speaker. Flanking him will be F. H. ("Rick") Ricketson, B. V. Sturdivant, A. J. Krappmann, Robert Selig and Sam Shain.

War Bond Premiere Dates Pouring In

Ned Depinet, 4th War Bond distributor chairman, is being "snowed under" with dates from houses lining up bond premieres, the WAC reported yesterday. Some spots have scheduled double-headers with others using several downtown spots in succession. San Francisco slates 90 premieres; Memphis a double, and Washington, D. C., three downtowners.

Third Convention Called by Grainger

James R. Grainger, president of Republic Pictures, yesterday announced the third and last in the company's current series of sales conferences, to be held Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 17-18 at Republic's in Hollywood.

Western district sales manager Francis Bateman will head a contingent from that district, including franchise holder J. T. Sheffield, Northwest territory, and branch managers F. M. Higgins, Seattle; J. H. Sheffield, Portland; Gene Gerbase, Denver; H. C. Fuller, Salt Lake City; John Frey, Los Angeles, and Sid Weisbaum, San Francisco.

Herbert J. Yates, Sr., is expected to continue his discussion of the promotion appropriation of $2,000,000 for advertising and publicity on key 1944 productions.

William Saal left here yesterday by plane to attend the meeting and to arrange further details on a preview and reception to launch "The Fighting SeaBees." Six SeaBees will be guests at a reception at the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles on Monday, and, on the same day, a reception will be held at the Hotel Astor here with 26 SeaBees as guests.

Rodgers to Meet UIE On M-G-M's Practices

The New York Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors' trade practice committee will meet for a second time tomorrow, with William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president in charge of distribution, when his findings of their trade practice complaints, as made known to him at a meeting on Dec. 15, will be made known.

The committee's meeting scheduled for today with Robert Mochrie, RKO general sales manager, and Robert S. Wolff, New York branch manager, for the same purpose, has been postponed because Mochrie was called to Boston last night to attend a war bond meeting. This session has been set back to next Tuesday.

Coming Events

Jan. 15—William F. Rodgers will address theatremen in Philadelphia.

Jan. 15—Launching of S.S. Carole Lombard at Calship Yards, San Pedro, Cal.

Jan. 16-17—Theatre owners of Carolinas meet, Hotel Charlotte, Charlotte, N. C.

Jan. 18—"Free Movie Bond Day," New York.

Jan. 18—William F. Rodgers to speak at luncheon meeting of exhibitors, Washington.

Jan. 18-Feb. 15—Fourth War Loan drive.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

Dorothy LAMOUR - Dick POWELL - Victor MOORE
in
"RIDING HIGH"
A Paramount Picture
IN TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON
TOMMY DORSEY and Band
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
OLIVIA DeHAVILLAND SONNY TUFTS
'GOVERNMENT GIRL'
James Dunn Anne Shirley Jess Barker

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Claudette COLBERT
Fred MacMURRAY
"NO TIME FOR LOVE"
In Person
DON REDMAN
and ORCH.

CARMEN MIRANDA · BAKER
ALICE FAYE · PHIL BENNY
GOODMAN AND HIS ORCH.
The Gang's All Here
in TECHNICOLOR!
PLUS A BIG STAGE SHOW ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1943 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

The Day You Saw Red...White and Blue!

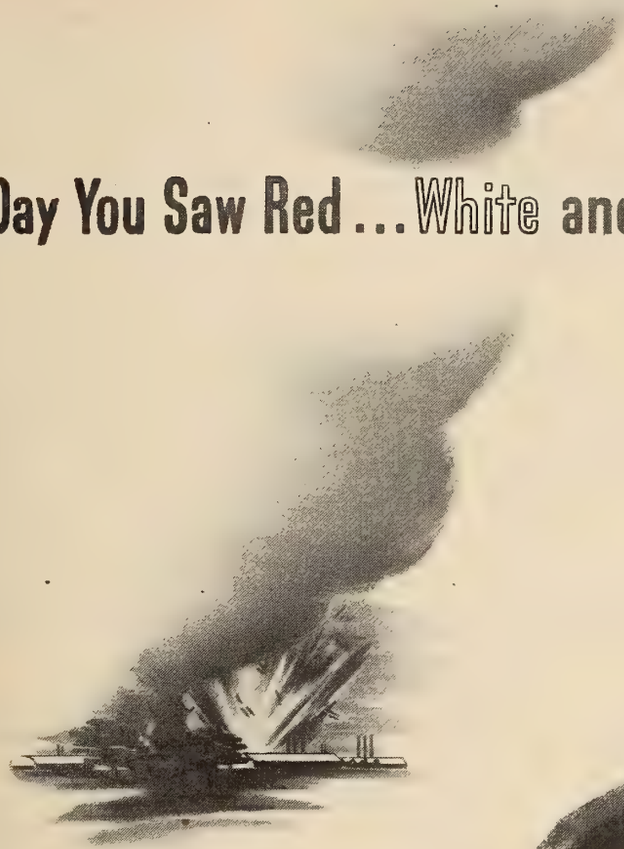
On April 18th, 1942, the first installment of a vengeance-debt was paid. American bombers blasted Tokyo.

To bring you the story *behind* the story of this memorable event, Warner Bros. went not to the skies, but *under the sea*—to bring you a story heroic beyond belief!

For 'DESTINATION TOKYO' is the all-exciting adventure of the U. S. Submarine *Copperfin*, her skipper and her crew . . . whose almost incredible daring played so vital a part in the action.

'DESTINATION TOKYO' is superb entertainment . . . a magnificent picture. It is also an adventure in 'applied Americanism'.

For like Warner Bros.' 'Casablanca' and 'Air Force'. . .'Mission to Moscow' and 'Action in the North Atlantic'. . .'This Is The Army', 'Watch on the Rhine' and 'Princess O'Rourke'. . .'DESTINATION TOKYO' breathes with the living, invincible spirit of a free people. Be sure to see it.



DESTINATION TOKYO

WARNER BROS.

JACK L. WARNER, Executive Producer

"an enviable record for combining good citizenship with good picture-making"—New York Times



CARY GRANT
JOHN GARFIELD
in
DESTINATION TOKYO
with
DANE CLARK · ROBERT HUTTON · WARNER ANDERSON
JOHN RIDGELY · ALAN HALE · WILLIAM PRINCE
Directed by DELMER DAVES · Produced by JERRY WALD

Screen Play by Delmer Daves and Albert Maltz
From an Original Story by Steve Fisher
Music by Franz Waxman

In this advertisement—10th in a series appearing widely in national publications—we tell again how this Company consistently is building plus-values of inspiration and Americanism into Warner Bros. Pictures. Your comments on this or other advertisements in the series will be welcomed.

Our Two Big Jobs in January
Fourth War Loan
and March of Dimes

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 12

LEON FROMKESS, vice-president today announced studio expansion in Producers Releasing Corp. Ben Schwalb, for the past 15 years at Columbia, joins the company in a supervisory capacity under Fromkess, and Carl Pierson has been signed as supervising film editor replacing Frank Lawrence, resigned. Ramond L. Schrock, story editor, has resigned; no successor has been named.

•

Yvette Clymer, widow of the writer John Clymer, brought suit today in Federal Court here, asking $50,000 damages from Loew's for alleged plagiarism of Clymer's "Chinchilla" in the studio's "Come Live With Me."

•

Screen Actors Guild today requested major producers to proceed with arbitration, pending since Nov. 29, through which the Guild is attempting to obtain increases for extras and other categories.

•

M-G-M has signed James Fitzpatrick to a new contract calling for 12 Traveltalks; he leaves for South America next week to start the series.

•

Jimmy Van Husen and Johnny Burke, song writers, have been engaged by International Pictures to write the score for "Belle of the Yukon."

•

Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Association today voted "The Song of Bernadette" the best picture of 1943.

•

Ned Depinet, RKO-Radio chief, arrived here today for a 10-day stay.

Fabian Will Attend Carolina Convention

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Jan. 12.—Mrs. Pauline Griffith, secretary for the Theater Owners of North and South Carolina reports that Si Fabian, executive of the War Activities Committee has accepted an invitation to attend the annual convention of the association here on Jan. 16-17.

Fabian is scheduled to speak at the morning session on the 17th and will leave that afternoon for South Bend, Ind., for graduation exercises of his son's U. S. Naval Reserve class. His son is to receive his commission as an ensign in the USNR.

Richey Will Attend Carolina Convention

Henderson M. Richey, M-G-M exhibitor-relations executive, will leave today for Washington where he will spend one day, and continue on to Charlotte to attend the annual convention of the North and South Carolina Theatre Owners, to be held Jan. 16-17. Richey will then return to Washington, to be present at M-G-M's exhibitor luncheon which is to be held at the Statler Hotel on Tuesday.

'Russia' Follows 'Joe'

M-G-M's "Song of Russia" will follow that company's "A Guy Named Joe" into the Capitol here. "The Heavenly Body," originally set to follow "Joe," will instead play after "Song of Russia."

Rodgers to Capital For MGM Meet

William F. Rodgers, M-G-M general sales manager, accompanied by William Ornstein of M-G-M's publicity department, will leave Monday for Washington to arrange for the company's exhibitor meeting and luncheon at the Statler Tuesday.

Among those who are said to have accepted invitations to attend are Frank C. Walker, Postmaster General; Lowell Mellett, assistant to President Roosevelt; Stanton Griffis, chief of the motion picture bureau of the OWI; Abram F. Myers, Allied general counsel; William Crockett, president of the MPTO of Virginia; Frank Horning, president of the MPTO of Maryland; A. Julian Brylawski, president of the MPTOA of the District of Columbia, and Abe Tolkins, head of the IOTA of Washington.

Lichtman's British Trip Set for March

Al Lichtman, vice-president of Loew's, in New York for over a week, will return to Hollywood on Friday. Lichtman had been in Montreal for ten days awaiting passage to London and came here when he was unable to obtain passage. He is now slated to make his projected trip to Great Britain in early March.

Howard Dietz, M-G-M advertising and publicity vice-president, will accompany Lichtman to the Coast.

Dinner Tonight for Captain LeFrancois

BOSTON, Jan. 12.—Capt. W. S. LeFrancois, Marine hero of the Makin Island raid and author of the Wanger production "Gung Ho!", will be honored tomorrow night by the New England press at a dinner in the Ritz-Carlton.

He arrived here tonight accompanied by Al Horwits, Universal publicity manager, and Budd Rodgers, Wanger's personal representative.

500 Will Attend 'Dimes' Breakfast

Five hundred theatre owners and managers in the New York area are expected to attend a March of Dimes "Appreciation Breakfast" at the Hotel Astor at 9:45 A.M., Jan. 21. Dimes Drive chairman Nicholas M. Schenck will be host, together with his executive committee.

Speakers will include Harry Brandt, C. C. Moskowitz and Ernest Emerling. E. L. Alperson will be toastmaster.

Hawthorne to Monogram

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 12. — Jim Hawthorne, formerly with Fox Intermountain Theatres in Denver and later production assistant to George W. Weeks, has joined Lou Lifton's publicity department at Monogram. Hawthorne has been program manager at station KMYR, Denver, since receiving his medical discharge from the Army last July.

Century Books Another

Century Circuit is now buying and booking for the Austin Theatre, Kew Gardens, L. I., in addition to others of the Rugoff and Becker Circuit.

Clark Puts Off Study of Decree; Leaves for N. Y.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Copies of the distributors' proposals for a new consent decree reached the Department of Justice today, but Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark, preparing to leave for New York tonight, had no opportunity to look it over and refused to comment until he has had a chance to read the distributors' proposals.

Clark is making only a flying trip to New York, proposing to return to Washington tomorrow, but he is not expected to go into the decree to any extent until next Monday when he is scheduled to meet with company officials again in New York.

At Clark's office, it was said that no arrangements have been made to discuss the decree with exhibitor representatives this week and that it is likely no such conversations will be held until after the conference with the companies.

N. Y. Publicists to Re-elect Tonight

With all other candidates nominated last month having since declined to run, the Screen Publicists Guild of New York, Local 114, UOWA (CIO) will tonight re-elect officers for 1943, including: Jonas Rosenfield, Jr., president, 20th-Fox; 1st vice-president, Harry Hochfeld, 20th-Fox; 2nd vice-president, Carl Rigrod, RKO-Radio; secretary, Gertrude Gelbin, and treasurer, Charles L. Wright.

Also on the agenda of the fifth annual meeting, to be held at the Hotel Piccadilly are a report on the status of arbitration on higher wages and a talk by Clifford McAvoy, CIO council legislative director, on "political action for unions in wartime."

Films Get Through, Hodgson Is Stranded

James Hodgson, March of Time cameraman, is reported here to be stranded in Sweden where he was shooting "Sweden's Middle Road" for MOT release. Nazis, shooting down his transport plane, forced suspension of service to England.

Hodgson's pictures got through safely in an undisclosed manner and form the subject matter of Mot's "Sweden's Middle Road," to be released Jan. 28.

Three 20th Releases

Twentieth-Fox releases this month will include "Uncensored," Jan. 21, and "Lifeboat," Jan. 28, according to Tom Connors, in charge of distribution. "The Lodger" was released on Jan. 7.

"Uncensored," being distributed by 20th here, was made in England, directed by Anthony Asquith and was produced by Edward Black.

Lt. Edelstein Missing

Lieut. Sidney Edelstein, formerly a member of Mort Blumenstock's publicity staff at Warner Bros. before going into the Army more than two years ago, has been reported missing in action in the European Area.

Extortionists Still Delay Bail Appeal

Delay of the six Chicago defendants recently convicted and jailed for 10 years in the film industry $1,000,000 extortion case in applying to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals here for bail, pending appeals, is attributed by Court observers to their efforts to obtain sufficient cash to effect their release in the event bail is granted. Each of the six recently paid fines of $10,000 apiece.

If the Circuit Court follows precedent, and if it allows bail, it is expected that each of the six will be obliged to post $200,000, before gaining temporary freedom.

Louis Kaufman, former business agent of Local 244, Motion Picture Operators Union of Newark, also convicted and sentenced to seven years imprisonment, was the only one of the group to be given freedom in bail fixed at $25,000, pending appeal.

Meanwhile, special Federal Prosecutor Boris Kostelanetz is moving rapidly toward the second trial of the Chicago defendants, on charges of mail fraud in the wage tax against members of the IATSE.

Grierson Resigns From Canadian WIB

TORONTO, Jan. 12.—Premier W. L. M. King officially announced today the resignation of John Grierson as general manager of the Wartime Information Board, but stated that Grierson will continue as manager of the National Film Board. It has been rumored for several months that Grierson was stepping out and also that he would become general manager of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., holding all three propaganda jobs, but no mention was made by King of the radio appointment.

The new WIB head is A. D. Davidson of Montreal who is a newspaperman.

Film Critics' Awards Presentation Jan. 21

The New York Film Critics Circle's awards for "the best" films of 1943 will be made Jan. 21 over a coast-to-coast NBC hook-up from New York and Hollywood. Alton Cook, film critic for the New York *World-Telegrdm*, chairman of the critics' board, will make the presentations from New York.

Warners will receive three top honors with "Watch on the Rhine" voted the best picture, Paul Lukas the best performer and Ida Lupino the best actress. George Stevens of Columbia, who won directorial honors for "The More the Merrier," will appear on the air show.

Film Board Installs

Installation of officers of the New York Film Board of Trade was held last night at the home here of Louis Nizer, general counsel and executive secretary of the board. Those installed were: Ralph Pielow, president; Clarence Eiseman, first vice-president; Jack Ellis, second vice-president; Ray Moon, treasurer; Robert J. Fannon, secretary, and Joseph Felder, sergeant at-arms.

Watch Columbia's January 19

31-CITY

World Premiere!

"None Shall Escape"

THE FIRST PICTURE OF THE POST-WAR TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

a timely picture!
a shocking picture!

One of a series of
newspaper ads for
"NONE SHALL ESCAPE"

When war is over... WILL YOU REMEMBER ME?

I was sixteen when the Nazis overran Europe. No girl was spared. We were made old women within a few months; we became worn-out bodies with scarred minds... Today we are the doomed. We are empty, broken—the pitiful remains of the Nazi scourge.



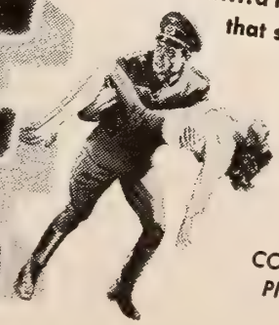
When War is over . . .

"...they will be brought back to the scene of their crimes and judged on the spot by the peoples whom they have outraged."
—from the Moscow Pact

NONE SHALL ESCAPE

The Trial of War Criminals!

THIS IS THE MOST PROPHETIC PICTURE OF OUR TIME!
This is civilization's indictment of Nazi barbarism! This is how we shall avenge all women!...a moving drama that speaks for the conscience of the world!



with MARSHA HUNT • ALEXANDER KNOX • HENRY TRAVERS • ERIK ROLF • Screen Play by Lester Cole • Directed by ANDRE DE TOTH • Produced

A COLUMBIA PICTURE

These are the test spots where this *Exploitation* "NATURAL" will open!

Boston, Mass.	Normandie & Majestic
Providence, R. I.	Strand
Springfield, Mass.	Bijou
Hartford, Conn.	E. M. Loew
New Haven, Conn.	Loew's Bijou
Portland, Me.	Strand
Haverhill, Mass.	Lafayette
New Bedford, Mass.	Empire
Lawrence, Mass.	Broadway
Fall River, Mass.	Empire
Stamford, Conn.	Palace
Brattleboro, Vt.	Paramount
New London, Conn.	Garde
Norwich, Conn.	Palace
Lowell, Mass.	RKO Keith
S. Norwalk, Conn.	Palace
Greenfield, Mass.	Garden
Fitchburg, Mass.	Fitchburg
Gloucester, Mass.	Strand
Manchester, N. H.	Strand
Nashua, N. H.	State
Portsmouth, N. H.	Arcadia
Augusta, Me.	Colonial
Claremont, N. H.	Magnet
Keene, N. H.	Scenic
Waterville, Me.	State
St. Albans, Vt.	Weldow
Rochester, N. H.	Scenic
St. Johnsbury, Vt.	Star
Lewiston, Me.	Strand
Willimantic, Conn.	Gem

COLUMBIA PICTURES

A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT! FOURTH WAR LOAN
AND WE WON'T FORGET THE MARCH OF DIMES

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

'Frisco Likes Fun, Pays $27,500 to 'Under' and 'Dood It'

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12.—Twin fun bill of "I Dood It" and "Man from Down Under" appears headed for $27,500 at the Fox, with "Higher and Higher" doing $25,500 in its second Sinatra swooning week at Golden Gate. Last week surprised by upping to $32,000.

"What a Woman" and "Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" off to good start at Orpheum with $16,400. Rain continues intermittent.

Total first run business $143,900. Average is $131,200.

Esimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 11-13:

"Hostages" (Para.)
WARFIELD—(20c-35c-55c-75c), 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $20,300).
"I Dood It" (M-G-M)
"Man from Down Under" (M-G-M)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c), 7 days. Gross: $27,500. (Average: $22,100).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $26,000).
"Riding High" (Para.)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,740) (20c-35c-55c-75c), 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $18,700).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (20c-35c-60c-75c), 7 days. Gross: $16,400. (Average: $12,700).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c), 7 days, 2nd week, moved over from the Fox. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $10,300).
"Woman of the Town" (UA)
"Larceny with Music" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (20c-35c-60c-75c), 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,200. (Average: $10,100).
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
STATE—(2,306) (35c-40c-55c), 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,000).

Bingo Bills Put Up In State Legislature

ALBANY, Jan. 12.—Bills to legalize Bingo were introduced here today by Senator Jim Crawford and Assemblyman George Archinal. One provides a constitutional amendment, requiring passage by two successive legislatures then submission to the people; the other limits Bingo operation to religious, veterans, fraternal and certain other charitable organizations under state licensing, with a five percent state tax on admissions to the game.

Governor Dewey last year vetoed a measure somewhat similar because of the prohibition against gambling in the State constitution. The Constitutional amendment method would hurdle this barrier but could not legalize it before 1946 at the earliest.

Italian Film House Opens

First-run Italian films will be featured beginning tomorrow by the Park Theatre at Columbus Circle here, which will be known as the Cine Verdi-Park Theatre. For its opening under the new policy the house will give a National War Fund benefit performance with sponsors including Judge Benvenga of the Bronx Supreme Court and Maria Gambarelli, Metropolitan Opera dancer.

James Farrell Passes

CARBONDALE, Pa., Jan. 12.—James Farrell, manager of the local Majestic and son of L. A. Farrell, executive of Comerford Theatres, died recently in St. Joseph's Hospital here following a brief illness.

Reviews

"The Crime Doctor's Strangest Case"

(Columbia)

"THE CRIME DOCTOR'S STRANGEST CASE" is a good film for the mystery devotees. It has plenty of suspense. Based on the radio program, "Crime Doctor," the series is comparable to the Sherlock Holmes mystery melodramas. Exhibitors will not find it hard to sell to the constant group of "armchair" detectives, or to those who enjoy an intricate story of good quality.

The story: Lloyd Bridges, the boy Baxter saved from "the chair" gets involved in another murder. He is working as secretary to a wealthy real-estate man who is poisoned. Suspicion points to Bridges, whose record is not good. The Crime Doctor comes along and uncovers four other suspects, mostly relatives of the deceased. Under suspicion are: Sam Flint, the victim's brother; Gloria Dickson, his cook; Reginald Denny; Rose Hobart, the widow, and Bridges. Their motive: money or revenge, since the deceased wasn't a very nice guy. After much excitement the murderer is discovered—but he's dead. Another murder. In the final work-out the guilty man is the first victim's brother and he, in turn, is the victim of Reginald Denny who had an eye on a cache of money. Bridges is cleared, the murder is solved, the original murderer is dead, the second murderer is taken into custody and the Crime Doctor goes his way.

Eugene Forde's direction is excellent. Taylor's screenplay is good, though at times it is complicated, but works out well in the end. Baxter, Miss Merrick, Denny, MacLane and Cowan are good in the leads. Virginia Brissac turns in an excellent performance in the supporting role of housekeeper. Creditable are: Miss Hobart, Bridges, Miss Dickson, Constance Worth, Thomas Jackson and Flint.

Running time, 68 mins. Release date, Dec. 9. "G."*

HELEN MCNAMARA

"Timber Queen"

(Paramount)

Hollywood, Jan. 10

BLENDING actionful melodrama, concerning logging operations for war purposes, with night-club intrigue involving gangsters who turn woodsmen in their country's interest, this offering lifts the Pine-Thomas production average to a new high. From the screenplay by Maxwell Shane and Edward T. Lowe, to the direction by Frank McDonald, this film is marketable merchandise that does credit to its category.

Richard Arlen portrays an ex-service pilot whose partner has defrauded his dead buddy's wife of timberlands vital to war production but kept idle until a mortgage can expire. Mary Beth Hughes, as the wife, June Havoc, as her associate, Sheldon Leonard, as the chief among several gangsters who experience regeneration through patriotism, and George E. Stone, as the comedian, furnish facile performances. The hilite of the story is the ex-pilot's dive-bombing of a dam by which the villain tries to prevent delivery of the lumber which will cancel out the mortgage. Coated with humor and smoothly paced, the picture is a natural for followers of the Pine-Thomas type of entertainment.

Running time, 65 mins. Released in block 3, "G".

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Reach Agreement On Building Code

TORONTO, Jan. 12.—The film industry and Ontario government have reached an understanding on the groundwork for general revision of the building code for theatres and exchanges. The agreement is in sequel to the film building fire two months ago.

A distributor delegation met today with provincial representatives at the Parliament Building and discussed details of film storage safeguards. The trade conceded the advisability in the Toronto district of new buildings for film exchanges, and it is understood that acceptance was given to a government proposal for inspection unification, with distributors offering a guarantee of constant voluntary safety measures in a self-discipline policy.

'Gang', Dualled, Grosses $9,100

OMAHA Jan. 12.—"The Gang's All Here" in its second week here was dualled with "Cinderella Swings It" for a combination that netted $9,100. "Riding High" was good for $10,100 at the Paramount. Weather was cold.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 12-13:

"Higher and Higher" (RKO) 4 days
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO) 4 days
"North Star" (RKO) 3 days
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO) 3 days
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (40c-55c). Gross: $6,900. (Average: $5,500).
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
"Cinderella Swings It" (RKO)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $9,100. (Average: $6,900).
"Adventures of Tartu" (M-G-M)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Clyde Lucas' orchestra on stage. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $14,900).
"Ridin' High" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,100. (Average: $9,800).

'Tokyo' Leads Holdovers in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—Downtown houses reported business on the upgrade this week with weather conditions more favorable. Holdovers are picking up most of the play. Among the few new openings, "What a Woman" figures on $19,800 at the Boyd plus $3,200 for its dual showing on Sunday at the Earle, to make it a $23,000 week. Among the holdovers, "Destination Tokyo" aims at $25,500 for its second week at the Mastbaum and "Thousands Cheer," at the Stanley, points to $23,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 12-14:

"Government Girl" (RKO)
ALDINE—(900) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,800. (Average: $10,300).
"Hostages" (Para.)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,250. (Average: $3,500).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $19,800. (Average: $19,000).
"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.) (6 days)
"What a Woman" (Col.) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville including Tommy Tucker's orchestra, Hal LeRoy, Frank Gaby, Don Brown, Mary Ann Wayne, Bud Kimker, Kerwin Somerville and Voices Three. Gross: $26,700. (Average: $22,000).
"So's Your Uncle" (Univ.)
FAY'S—(2,200) (29c-35c-46c-57c-68c), 7 days of vaudeville including Lucky Millinder's orchestra, Judy Carol, Trevor Bacon, Spider Bruce & Co., Fave McHarris and Tanglefoot and Neatiste. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000).
"The Gang's All Here" (M-G-M)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,700. (Average: $17,800).
"A Lady Takes a Chance" (RKO)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c), 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,700. (Average: $5,600).
"Crazy House" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c), 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
MASTBAUM—(4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c), 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $22,000).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STANLEY—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c), 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $23,500. (Average: $18,300).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c), 7 days. Gross: $11,300. (Average: $8,000).

Buffalo Sees 'Tokyo' And Gives It $16,400

BUFFALO, Jan. 12.—"Destination Tokyo" continued strong in a second week at the Great Lakes with a gross of $16,400. So did "Higher and Higher" and "The Falcon and the Co-eds" at the 20th Century with $14,600. Grosses in all instances were close to or average.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15:

"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
"The Men from Down Under" (M-G-M)
BUFFALO—(3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $16,500).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,400. (Average: $16,400).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c), 7 days, 2nd week, moveover. Gross: $11,900. (Average: $9,500).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"The Falcon and the Co-eds" (RKO)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c), 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,600. (Average: $10,600).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Good Luck, Mr. Yates" (Col.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c), 7 days, extended run. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,500).

Kelly Drops U.A. Foreign Sales Post

(*Continued from page* 1)

than a year ago of Laudy Lawrence, the statement pointed out. The active management of the U. A. foreign department has been handled for some time by Gould, together with his executive assistants, Thomas P. Mulrooney and Harry Schroeder, as a result of which no disturbance of U. A.'s foreign operations is expected to result from the change.

Kelly Expected "Shortly"

The company stated that Kelly is expected to return from London "shortly" to activate the company's international television interests. United Artists recently was reported negotiating for acquisition of a minority interest in Scophony Corp. of America, in which Paramount and General Precision Equipment Corp. (20th Century-Fox) hold senior interests. So far as is known United Artists does not now hold an interest in any television organization. However, the company holds a 25 per cent interest in Odeon Theatres, London, in which Scophony, Ltd., was identified with pre-war commercial television exhibition in two of the circuit's London theatres.

Kelly reportedly has conferred in London recently with Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, chairman of the board of Scophony, and was identified with the reports concerning U. A.'s negotiations here for an interest in Scophony of America. Rank is chairman of Odeon and also has been reported to have shown interest in Scophony television developments.

Reserves Decision In Cummings Suit

Los Angeles, Jan. 12. — Suit by Robert Cummings, actor, against Universal, asking $10,000 salary claimed to be due him and the nullification of his contract which went into dispute on April 10 when the studio suspended him for declining a role in "Fired Wife," has been taken under advisement by Federal Judge Harry A. Holzer following a ten-day trial here.

A decision is expected in three or four weeks.

3 Legion Listings, Another Low Hit

The Legion of Decency this week lists only three current pictures, a new low in availabilities. Listed in Class A-1, for general patronage were: "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves," Universal, and "In Our Time," Warners. Listed as Class B, objectionable in part, was Republic's "Casanova in Burlesque."

Equity Favors Robeson

Actors Equity here has ruled against potential action directed at Paul Robeson, screen, stage and concert star, by the Central Trades and Labor Council of the AFL which last week demanded that Robeson resign his honorary membership in the Congress of Industrial Organizations or face expulsion from the AFL.

Government Aid to Films In Post-War Is Certain

(*Continued from page* 1)

communications will make the report, although he will be accompanied by other Department officials. Burke was prominently identified with negotiations leading up to the release of the companies' blocked revenues in London last year and has been identified with conversations between industry representatives and the Department on postwar collaboration over a period of many months.

While Department officials today refused to disclose details of tomorrow's meeting on the ground that the matter is still in the planning stage, there was no attempt to conceal the Department's interest in and importance of the industry's postwar problems. It was learned that the Department is aware of the likelihood of a postwar scramble for the reopened film markets of the world as the invasion progresses and in the postwar period, and also in the probability that the American industry will be vitally affected by the form in which production is reestablished in the presently inactive warring nations abroad.

A general discussion of these and other problems, probably including industry production of special films for State Department use in the postwar era abroad, is expected to occupy tomorrow's sessions. The State Department's willingness to aid the industry in the handling of such problems has been apparent here for long. F. W. Allport, British representative for the MPPDA, now visiting the United States, was here from New York for State Department conferences during the early part of the week, and is believed to have arranged for the meeting at that time.

Over a long period, Will Hays and Carl Milliken of the MPPDA, and foreign managers of the major companies have conferred with State Department officials on the industry's postwar problems and need of Government cooperation.

Mayer Advises Army On War Plant Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

been largely due to the expansion of the War Department's industrial service division program of showing war-and-defense films to workers in war industries, particularly in plants producing munitions. Lt. Col. Cohen will be in charge of compilation or production of these films with Capt. Kenneth M. McKenna as assistant producer. Actual combat pictures from the battle fronts will also be used. There will be two films made available monthly.

Capt. Monroe Greenthal of the Army's industrial service division will handle promotion of the films through Army officers in the various service commands, it is understood.

Mayer has been acting as assistant co-ordinator and treasurer for the War Activities Committee here and is expected to combine his new activities with his present ones, continuing his headquarters in New York. He is owner of the Rialto Theatre in New York and other theatre properties.

Canada Again Eases Accessories Ban

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 12.—Indefinite suspension of the ban on the use of window cards, heralds and other advertising material away from theatres has been announced here by John Atkins, of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, on representations by film exchanges that they had stocks of advertising accessories on forthcoming films for some months ahead and barring their use would mean the loss of supplies of a considerable quantity.

The original order, which was effective Dec. 31, prohibited the use of tack cards, throwaways, printed window signs and posters, except 24 sheets on any but theatre premises. These restrictions are now lifted until further notice to use up current stocks. The edict was intended to conserve paper.

Senate Delays Tax Action Till Friday

(*Continued from page* 1)

controversy but held off consideration of controversial issues until the simpler problems had been disposed of.

The deferring of the discussion of admission taxes indicates that there may be a considerable debate on the provision. It is known that representatives of the industry have been seeking to have an amendment offered from the floor eliminating the increase entirely or, failing that, to have the debate show definitely the sacrifices the industry is making and the burden it will bear under the proposed levy, as a bulwark against further attempts by the Treasury to secure its proposed rate of three cents on each 10 cents, which in the case of some theatres would mean a tax of nearly 40 per cent.

Commerce Association Opposes Tax Increase

Opposition to the proposed 10 or 20 per cent boost in the Federal amusement tax was expressed here yesterday by Lee S. Buckingham, president, in behalf of the West Side Association of Commerce at that group's annual meeting.

Buckingham said the increase would adversely affect business and property values, especially in New York, "the amusement center of the nation."

Building Hurdles Stay for Duration

(*Continued from page* 1)

closed that the question has been given extended consideration by the full board, and that it was unanimously agreed "that there must be no modification of the restrictions until we can be certain, from the course of the war, that such modification would not harm the war production program."

Short Subject Reviews

"New Prisons— New Men"

(RKO Pathe)

The theory of progressive penal institutions replacing the old rock-splitting idea, making, rather than breaking men who have strayed from the "straight and narrow," is the subject of the latest "This Is America."

A "typical," though seemingly idealized, prisoner is followed by the camera and commentator through his "stretch." No detail is overlooked as he is assigned to various schools within the institution and as he explores a modern library, gym and dining hall. The prison's contribution to the war effort is brought out in shots of war work in the shops and on the farms, and in purchases of war bonds by inmates. Warden Lewis E. Lawes of Sing Sing fame appears in the film.

Photography is good, likewise direction by Harry W. Smith. Dwight Weist's narration is excellent. Subject matter is interesting and timely. Running time, 17 mins. Produced by Frederic C. Ullman, Jr.

"Flicker Flashbacks"

(RKO Pathe)

Latest of the Flashback series is just as entertaining as its predecessors. D. W. Griffith appears in "The Crossroads of Life," the story of the girl who left home to become an actress against daddy's wishes. In the big city she meets a man — enter the "crossroads." Should daughter go home to daddy, as she wants to, or should she marry the handsome hero? Daddy solves the problem by coming after his "wayward" girl.

In the second sequence William S. Hart plays "The Fugitive." It's the sad tale of a cowboy and a Spanish fandango dancer. Melodrama reigns queen and Hart dies. Richard O. Fleischer's scripts for the Flashback series continues to be grand. Ward Wilson's narration is amusing. Musical background by Herman Fuchs is fitting. Frederic C. Ullman, Jr., produced. Running time, 8½ mins.

Cowdin to Coast On Post-war Plans

(*Continued from page* 1)

He plans to remain in the West for a month.

"Motion pictures can do an important job of informing the people of other countries of the American way of life when hostilities cease," Cowdin further stated. "In this way, pictures will be of material assistance in shaping the post-war world and raising standards of living in foreign lands.

"There is every reason to believe that a new day is dawning for motion pictures in their influence upon the world as a whole. I expect great advances in this direction in the years immediately ahead," he concluded.

Bartholomew Out

Amarillo, Tex., Jan. 12. — Pfc Freddie Bartholomew, student mechanic at the airfield here, has been dicharged from the Army because of injuries.

N.Y. Trade Lauds Moss at Luncheon

(Continued from page 1)

to raise $10,500,000 this year for the 116 institutions under its jurisdiction.

Sam Rinzler, head of Randforce Circuit, praised the commissioner for his "tireless efforts" in furthering the welfare of the amusement industry through the activities of the License Department.

Moss traced some of the highlights of his administration as they affected the industry, admitting that he had been "tough" in enforcing the city ordinances affecting theatres, but emphasized it has always been in the best interests of everyone concerned.

Weinstock, Brecher Speak

Other prominent industry members who expressed their regard for the guest of honor were David Weinstock and Leo Brecher, co-chairmen of the theatre owners' committee; Nate B. Spingold, Columbia executive, who is campaign manager for the industry, and Norman S. Goetz, chairman of the city-wide Federation campaign.

Others seated on the dais were: David Bernstein, co-chairman with Major Albert Warner, of the amusement division; Malcolm Kingsberg, vice chairman; Milton C. Weissman, Max Cohen, Eddie Levine, George Borthwick, Herman Robbins, E. L. Alperson, Joseph Bernhard, Julius Joelson and Spyros Skouras.

PRC Distributors Protest Increases

(Continued from page 1)

this, the franchise holders will ask to have their guaranty on each picture waived, it is said.

The franchise holders' committee is composed of Nat Lefton, Cleveland, chairman; Henri Elman, Chicago; Ike Katz, Chicago, and George Gill, Washington. A series of meetings were held here last week at which other franchise holders, in addition to members of the committee, were present. They included Andy Dietz, St. Louis; Ben Marcus, Milwaukee; Joe Bohn, Indianapolis; Harry Katz, Charlotte; Lou and Milton Lefton, Pittsburgh; Harry Goldman, Boston; Phil Sliman, New Orleans; Sam Decker, Los Angeles; Abbott Swartz, Minneapolis; E. B. Walker and Harry McKenna, Oklahoma City, and William Flemion, Detroit.

30 Boston Houses Change for Fire Law

BOSTON, Jan. 11.—Thirty Boston theatres, brought under the lash of the Public Safety Commission some days ago, have so far complied with the new "Cocoanut Grove law" compelling safety alterations, and have been given full approval of authorities again.

All of the theatres had failed, in the opinion of the Safety Commission, to provide sufficient exits, and in many cases were ordered to dispense with stage shows, close second balconies and make other drastic changes.

Brill Gets Another

The 55th Street Playhouse, Manhattan, is now being operated by Dave Brill, circuit owner.

Getting Ready for That Big Invasion

Capt. Burgess Meredith, now on duty with the Army Public Relations Office in England, will star in a film designed to prepare American soldiers for life in France, according to press wires from London.

The picture will serve the same function as "Welcome to Britain," recently completed by the Office of War Information in cooperation with the British Ministry of Information. What the soldier should not do in foreign countries is being emphasized by the series.

Ray Johnston's 30th Anniversary Today

(Continued from page 1)

serial. Later he was treasurer of Thanhouser and then became president of Big Productions Film Corp.

Johnston was in charge of the Thanhouser studio in Florida for a time and also was engaged in independent theatre operation. He was vice-president of Shallenberger's Arrow Film up to 1924 when he organized and became president of Rayart Pictures Corp. He organized and became president of Monogram in 1931, with 20 franchise holders and 39 affiliated exchanges. Johnston, now headquartering at the Monogram studio in Hollywood, has headed the company continuously since.

Monogram will launch a sales drive, Feb. 4 to April 28, in honor of Johnston's anniversary.

Gross from 2 Will Top a Previous 48

(Continued from page 1)

delinquency cycle, and the anti-Nazi film, "Women in Bondage." Opening performances of the former took place at Detroit on Nov. 26, and of "Bondage" at Milwaukee on Dec. 9.

"These films furnish ample vindication of Monogram's new adopted policy of advancing into the field of 'A' productions when subject matter justifies increased budgets. The two stories were recognized as timely newspaper headlines, with unlimited possibilities of exploitation, warranting the assembling of top-flight casts," said Broidy.

"As a result of successful premieres, we were deluged with bookings, many of which took us into outlets no Monogram picture had ever played before. The company has been able to select first-run bookings on the basis of what each theatre is prepared to promise in the matter of promotion and exploitation, and to arrange such bookings on a percentage basis in all important situations," added Broidy.

John Collins Passes

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—John F. Collins, 63, one-time vaudeville actor and more recently operator of a script-writing agency here, died at his home in Highland Park yesterday.

MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATES, INC. INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

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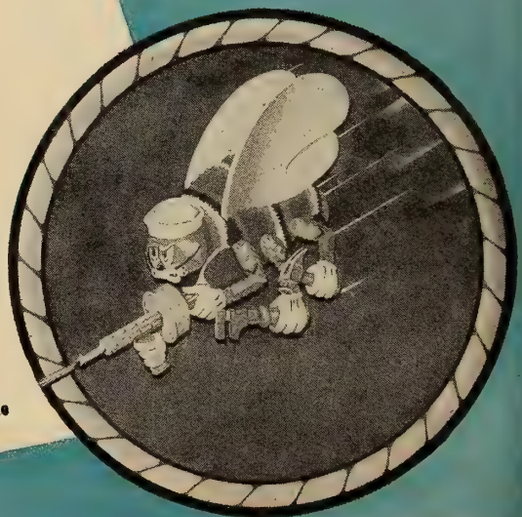
Romance of the Seven Seas!

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THE FIGHTING SEABEES

A Republic PICTURE



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WILLIAM FRAWLEY · LEONID KINSKEY
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EDWARD LUDWIG, Director • Second Unit Directed by HOWARD LYDECKER
Screenplay by Borden Chase & Aeneas Mac Kenzie • Original Story by Borden Chase

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4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 10 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1944 TEN CENTS

POISED FOR BOND DRIVE; INDUSTRY SEEKS NEW TOP

'Dimes' Drive 'Our War on Home Front'

"January is a two-front month for the fighting motion picture industry!" That, in essence, is the keynote of the approach to the forthcoming industry participation in the anti-paralysis March of Dimes drive, Jan. 24-30, as set forth by the motion picture "dimes" committee, headed by Nicholas M. Schenck.

"The Fourth War Loan might be termed the industry's attack to back the battle-fronts—the March of Dimes is our war of the home-front," committee leaders declare.

Uniquely, most of the leaders are the same for both campaigns—and on the firing line, all of the battlers will be the same men and women, hard-working theatre staffs who will be selling bonds and collecting dimes.

Nicholas M. Schenck, national chairman of the industry's Dimes campaign for the third successive year, yesterday paid tribute to those who are working in behalf of both the

(*Continued on page 4*)

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Merger of 4-A Actors' Guilds in the Offing

The Screen Actors Guild has now officially joined the over-all actors' guild merger discussions being conducted in New York between Actors Equity, American Federation of Radio Artists and the American Guild of Musical Artists. Florence Marston, New York representative of SAG, had been attending weekly meetings as an unofficial observer along with a representative from the American Guild of Variety Artists. SAG, in a resolution passed late last month, endorsed the principle of the merger and Mrs. Marston has now acquired official status for the SAG.

Seek to Expedite State Dep't Aid

Means by which the State Department can extend help to the industry in meeting and solving postwar problems in international markets were discussed here yesterday at a meeting of company executives and foreign department heads with Francis Colt de Wolf and George R. Canty of the State Department.

The meeting was the first of several which will be held from time to time for the exchange of views on the industry's international problems, and which are expected to develop a modus operandi for State Department collaboration. That collaboration is to be accorded the industry by the Department was indicated in Washington prior to yesterday's meeting. The form in which help may be extended and a full discussion and understanding of the industry's post-war problems in foreign markets appear to be the principal matters remaining to be explored at the coming meetings.

As previously reported, one form that the contemplated collaboration may take is the establishment within the State Department of a motion picture division, where industry problems in world markets could be taken with the certainty of their being given prompt and understanding attention.

The meeting yesterday was opened at MPPDA headquarters and con-

(*Continued on page 4*)

"A Bond for Every Seat"

630,000 Servicemen See Film Nightly

An average of 630,000 men overseas are seeing current Hollywood films every night, Major John J. Hubbell of the Army Overseas Motion Picture Service, said yesterday at a luncheon of the Public Information Committee. Si Seadler, chairman, presided at the meeting, which was held at the New York Athletic Club here. Present also were Ma-

(*Continued on page 4*)

"Challenge Will Be Met"





THE challenge—a bond sold for every seat—is uncompromising and almost superhuman but it will be met, Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry's Fourth War Loan Drive, declared in a statement to *Motion Picture Daily* yesterday.

"A bond for every seat means 11,500,000 bonds, the most ambitious bond selling program on record."

"It is a difficult job, but not an impossible one. But even if it were, there is no business in the world with as steady a record of accomplishing the impossible as the motion picture industry.

"Every man and woman in it is being depended upon not only to buy more than his or her share of bonds, but to utilize every ounce of showmanship, salesmanship and merchandising we possess in making 'A Bond for Every Seat' a shining reality."

Intensive Preparation Finished--All Hands Will Dig In

By SHERWIN A. KANE

With the industry completely mobilized for its important role in the Fourth War Loan Drive, campaign leaders predicted yesterday that its performance will excel any previous achievement of the industry in its magnificent record of contributions to the war effort.

Forecasts have been made that the tours of film stars alone may result in sales of one billion dollars in bonds. While no fixed quota or goal has been set for or by the industry, the campaign slogan of "A Bond for Every Seat" is certain to pile up an impressive sales total if only its minimum possibilities are realized. There are an estimated 11,500,000 seats in American theatres. If the smallest denomination war bond is sold for each seat, the total would approximate $300,000,000.

Past experience has shown that thousands of bonds of the highest denominations are sold in the theatres. The higher denominations certain to be sold in the drive which opens officially next Tuesday and

(*Continued on page 6*)

In This Edition

Last minute wires from key cities on the Fourth War Loan Drive appear on pages 5 and 6.

Special inaugural material and advertising messages follow immediately and proceed without interruption to page 52.

Let's ALL back the attack!

Personal Mention

EARL J. HUDSON, president of United Detroit Theatres, is in New York for Paramount home office conferences.

•

HARRY SNYDER, MORT BLUMENSTOCK's office boy at the Warner home office, hasturned thespian and will appear in a local YMCA playlet, "The Trysting Place," Jan. 26. Office boys being so scarce these days, Mort is worried.

•

FRANK ROSENBERG, Columbia publicity and advertising head, has arrived in Hartford, Conn., on the first leg of his New England tour.

•

JAMES WINN, United Artists district manager, and WILLIAM S. SHARTIN, New Haven branch manager, visited the home office here yesterday.

•

W. A. SCULLY, Universal vice-president and sales manager, will leave tonight for the Coast to confer with company executives now at the studio.

•

AL LICHTMAN, Loew's vice-president, scheduled to leave for the Coast today, has delayed his departure until Monday.

•

TEDDY COHEN, 17-year-old son of SAMMY COHEN, United Artists foreign publicity director, has enlisted in the Navy.

•

LOUIS LAVORGNA, operator of the Lincoln, New Haven, has enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps.

•

TOM MILLER, operator of the Capitol in Milford, Conn., has left for Army service.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists Western division manager, is on a business trip to the Midwest.

•

HARRY GOLD, United Artists Eastern division manager, is back in New York following a trip to Philadelphia.

•

A. J. O'KEEFE, Universal Western sales manager, left yesterday for a three-week trip through his territory.

•

MRS. BEN GOETZ, wife of M-G-M's London production executive, will leave for Hollywood Monday.

•

JOE PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, arrived yesterday from the Coast.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Warners Engage Harris

Radie Harris, film and radio writer and publicist, has been engaged by Warners, starting next Monday, for a temporary assignment under Marjorie Morrow, head of the company's talent bureau in the East.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Jackson Suit Delayed

CHICAGO, Jan. 13. — Trial of the $365,000 anti-trust suit of the Jackson Park Theatre against the five large distributors and their theatre affiliates has been postponed until Feb. 14.

Ad Space Cut Not Heavy In Canada

TORONTO, Jan. 13.—Although wartime restrictions have forced Canadian newspapers to cut down considerably on free space given to film news, limits on advertising space are not stringent enough to hamper promotional campaigns seriously, according to a survey by Warners in the Dominion.

In Toronto, theatres are the only advertisers which can place copy on a definite date basis, and from others being accepted on the condition that they be used on the nearest possible date. In Halifax, however, copy is required 48 hours in advance.

R. S. Roddick, Famous Players Canadian Maritime supervisor, reporting conditions on the Atlantic Coast, said that no ad space reductions had been made in St. John, Halifax, Sydney, Glace Bay and Moncton, but free lineage was "increasingly hard to secure." In Montreal, Tom Cleary, director of advertising for Consolidated Theatres, reported that "Canada's most cosmopolitan city" is still wide open in contrast with other Dominion keys The Montreal dailies (English and French) carry a page or more devoted almost exclusively to motion picture ads and stories, and 10 French-language magazines are continually giving more space to film news.

E. A. Zorn, FPC prairie-province chief, stated that there has been no restriction in ad space in Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton or other Western Canada keys. Warners' office claims that war conditions have increased the use of its twice-monthly mat service.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Theatres Stymied On Weekend Ads

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 13.—Local newspapers have notified theatre advertisers here that no Saturday afternoon or Monday morning advertising will be accepted for the duration of the newsprint shortage.

Circuit publicity department reports that the papers will, however, continue to carry regular boxed theatre time-tables. Loew's Poli here is expected to substitute weekend radio spot announcements for newspapers.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Theatre Ad Space Is Cut in Seattle

SEATTLE, Jan. 13.—Seattle is the latest key city to cut theatre newspaper ad space. In the *Post-Intelligencer*, opening day advertisements cannot exceed 20 inches, and if any company owns more than one house with the same change day only one of its theatres can have the benefit of the allowance.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Rep. Host to Seabees

Republic will be host at a reception at the Hotel Astor here on Monday afternoon to a group of Seabees from 26 American cities who returned recently from active service with Navy construction battalions in the Mediterranean and Pacific areas. A screening of Republic's "The Fighting Sea-Bees" will be held at the home office projection room Monday morning.

Gov't Reel Must Be Shown in Argentine

The Argentine military government has issued a decree that all cinemas in that country, beginning Jan. 31, must show the Argentine national newsreel at all performances, it was disclosed in a cable received here yesterday from Buenos Aires.

Argentina, considered strongly pro-Nazi, has been moving steadily for a long time toward the curtailment of Hollywood and other United Nations' motion pictures.

Friedl Sets Unique Theatre-Radio Tieup

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 13.—Formation of a theatre-radio enterprise, with television a future possibility, was announced here by John J. Friedl, president of Minnesota Amusement Co., and Stanley Hubbard, president of station KSTP.

The Minnesota theatre, 4,000-seat house long dark but set for reopening under a new lease taken by Friedl, will provide quarters for both theatre and radio operations. KSTP will occupy the second floor of the building, installing one of the largest triple-set studios West of Chicago.

The Minnesota will be re-named the Radio City Theatre and the entire project will be known as Radio City. Opening is announced for March 2.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

MacLeish to Give History Parallels

An experiment described as new to radio, the presentation of the parallels of North and South American history, will be launched by Archibald MacLeish over NBC at 7 p.m. on Feb. 5 in conjunction with the Inter-American University of the Air.

In an interview here yesterday MacLeish, who is Librarian of Congress, explained that he would serve by remote control from Washington as narrator on some of the 15 programs in the series. Listener interest in this country will be promoted by the American Library Association and the broadcasts will be short-waved in Spanish and Portuguese.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Rosen, Loew's State Manager, Resigns

Al Rosen, manager of Loew's State at Times Square, has resigned, effective March 1. He will enter a field outside of the industry in California.

Rosen has managed Loew theatres in Brooklyn and New York for more than 15 years. He has managed the State for the last eight years.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Mrs. Sophia Thomas Dies

Mrs. Sophia Thomas, mother of Harry Thomas, Monogram Eastern division sales manager, died here early yesterday morning. Services are being held today in Brooklyn.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 13

SHERRILL CORWIN, manager of the Orpheum here, today told MOTION PICTURE DAILY: "The Orpheum becomes a moveover first-run film house following a strike by the pit band last night. This closes the Orpheum stage to name bands and vaudeville." Dispute with musicians of Local 47 arose when Corwin refused to submit wage increases asked by musicians to the War Labor Board. WLB turned down an increase sought last April.

•

Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager of Warner, arrived today for studio conferences with Jack L. Warner and Charles Einfeld on selling plans for "The Adventures of Mark Twain," "Passage to Marseilles" and "In Our Time."

•

Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president in charge of Universal's foreign distribution, reached here from New York today. Post-war plans are to be discussed with J. Cheever Cowdin, Nate J. Blumberg and Cliff Work.

•

Bing Crosby and two Chicago sportsmen have applied for a post-war operating franchise for Los Angeles in the National Football League, according to word reaching here from Chicago.

•

RKO today signed William Cameron Menzies to direct "Gibson Girl." David Hempstead will produce and Ginger Rogers will be starred.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Al. Klaw, Oldtime Producer, Dies

WINTER PARK, Fla., Jan. 13.—Alonzo Klaw, 58, who a generation ago was one of the old New York theatrical producing team of Klaw & Erlanger, died in a hotel here yesterday after a long illness.

Surviving are his widow, who is active in the operation of the New York Stage Door Canteen; a son, Sgt. Spencer Klaw of the Army, and a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Whitney. Interment will be in Carmel, N. Y.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Wm. Collier, Sr., Passes

BEVERLY HILLS, Jan. 13.—William Collier, Sr., 77, veteran screen actor, died here today. Burial services will be held Saturday at the Church of the Recessional, Forest Lawn Cemetery.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Dr. Schanze Passes

BALTIMORE, Jan. 13.—Dr. Frederick W. Schanze, owner of Schanze's Theatre, neighborhood house, died here last night after a year's illness.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Paramount News Chosen

Paramount Canadian News will be shown in all armed service camps in Canada as the result of a survey of all newsreels made by members of the War Services Committee in Canada.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief: Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue, Bruce Godshaw, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Square, London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Coast Unions Favor SAG in 'Canteen' Fight

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13.—The Conference of Studio Unions adopted a resolution last night supporting the Screen Actors Guild's stand on "Hollywood Canteen," on the basis that the Guild union has a right to set up rules for the protection of the membership. Herbert Sorrell, CSU president, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY: "We support the SAG in its stand that a union has the right to make rules protecting its members. If we do not, and Warners is successful in its suit, there's nothing to prevent similar action against all or any studio unions."

Warners denies any plans to resume production on "Canteen." A studio spokesman told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that "SAG's amendment to Rule 33 made it even harder for any actor to take part in 'Canteen.' It virtually labeled all patriotic charity pictures as 'pressure pictures.'" The SAG ruling "to clarify Rule 33" defined pressure pictures, stating waivers would be granted actors if the Guild board was satisfied that "no pressure is being used."

The SAG board took action to notify its membership of Warners' suit, but Mollie Lewin, executive secretary, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that "up to now the board has not been served with papers on Warners' $500,000 damage suit."

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Judge Bright Denies Kaufman's Appeal

Federal Judge John Bright here yesterday denied the motion by Louis Kaufman, former business agent of Local 244, Operators Union, of Newark, for a stay of the Court's recent sentencing of Kaufman to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of $10,000 pending appeal of his conviction for extortion.

Under Judge Bright's ruling, Kaufman will remain free in bail pending appeal but will be compelled to pay the fine. He may post $10,000 in escrow or file a bond guaranteeing payment of the fine, in the event the conviction is confirmed, or he will be subjected to a complete examination of his assets by Assistant U. S. Attorney Martin Klein, in charge of fine collections for the Government. Kaufman will be brought into Federal Court Tuesday when he must be prepared to guarantee payment of the fine or be examined by Klein.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Exhibitors Taken Off Favored List by KRS

LONDON, Jan. 13.—The conciliation committee of the Kinematograph Renters Society has produced evidence prompting the committee to unanimously remove from the so-called secret list a majority of exhibitors hitherto enjoying preferential treatment of product.

This has been the main stumbling block hitherto to free negotiation with exhibitors for settling trade disputes.

Government Slashes Its 'Regular' Film Budgets

WASHINGTON, Jan 13. — Less money, on the whole, will be spent on motion picture operations by regular U. S. Government departments during the year beginning July 1, next, it was disclosed today in the annual budget submitted to Congress by President Roosevelt. 'Regular,' or normal film operations do not include huge expenditures for films on war and defense efforts.

The budget as submitted by the President today calls for the second near-hundred-billion-dollar expenditure in American history, and in an accompanying message Congress was called upon for higher taxes, more Social Security, a substantial food-subsidy program and legislation implementing the initial steps in an elaborate plan for shaping the post-war economy of the nation.

CIAA, OWI Budgets Later

Because of changing war conditions, no estimates were submitted for the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the Office of War Information or the War or Navy departments. Those figures, it was explained, will be transmitted next Spring when Congress prepares to deal with the respective appropriations for those agencies.

A cut of $200,000 from the present appropriation is contemplated for enforcement of the anti-trust statutes by the Department of Justice, for which $1,400,000 is suggested by the President.

The State Department would be given $25,700, same as for this year, for its educational motion picture program, and the Department of Agriculture would get $59,500, also the same as for this year, for its dissemination of agricultural information by motion pictures.

OE Fund Halved

The fund for visiual aids for war training for the Office of Education would be cut from $2,000,000 to $1,000,000. National Archives would be given an over-all appropriation of $1,091,000, against $892,000 for the current year.

An increase of more than $700,000 is provided for the Federal Communications Commission, which is estimated to require a total of $8,371,700, against $7,609,914 for this year. The bulk of the FCC appropriation is for national defense activities, which are to get $6,146,000, against $4,490,314, with regular FCC work being given $2,209,000, against $2,000,000.

Cleveland Owners Re-elect Schwartz

CLEVELAND, Jan. 13. — Ernest Schwartz was re-elected president of the Cleveland M. P. Exhibitors' Association for his 11th successive term today, in honor of which the Association presented him with a $500 War Bond.

Unanimously re-elected were: vice-president, Albert E. Patk; treasurer, James E. Scoville, and secretary, George W. Erdmann. Re-elected board members were: Henry Greenberger, John Kalafat, Meyer Fine, Scoville and P. E. Essick.

Independent exhibitors voted the week of Feb. 6 as "Free Movie Week," and agreed to participate in the "March of Dimes" collection. Mary Pickford will be here Jan. 27 for a "dimes" luncheon at the Statler Hotel.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

'Rebecca' Copyright Suit Off Calendar

Edwina Levin MacDonald's copyright infringement action against the creators of both the novel and the film "Rebecca" has been taken off the Federal Court calendar here by Judge John C. Knox. Judge William W. Bondy last week granted a dismissal motion made by Doubleday, Doran & Co., one of the defendants. An application made by the plaintiff to appeal from the dismissal order is expected to come up for argument during the present term of the U. S. Court of Appeals.

Co-defendants with Doubleday, Doran are Selznick Pictures, David Selznick, David O. Selznick Productions, United Artists and Daphne Du Maurier, author of the book.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Screen Publicists Reelect Rosenfeld

Jonas Rosenfeld, Jr., 20th-Fox, was last night reelected president of the Screen Publicists Guild of New York, Local 114, UOWA (CIO), at the annual meeting at the Hotel Piccadilly here.

Other officers named were Harry Hochfeld, 20th-Fox, 1st vice-president; Carl Rigrod, RKO-Radio, 2nd vice-president; Gertrude Gelbin, secretary, and Charles L. Wright, treasurer.

Money in Circulation Reached New High in November: $19,900,000,000

Washington, Jan. 13.—Money in circulation and available for use at the box office of the nation's theatres, and all other public spending, reached another new record in November of $19,900,000,000, and the total amount of monetary purchasing power in the hands of the public was at an all-time high of more than $76 billion, it was reported tonight by the Office of War Information.

The OWI report showed that there was $5,100,000,000 more of "hard cash" in circulation in November than in the same month in 1942 and that income payments to individuals, after taxes, left them with $33,400,000,000 more than the value of consumer goods and services available.

Admissions to Yield Gov't $179,200,000

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—U. S. Admission tax collections for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, are expected by the Treasury Department to reach $179,200,000, and an anticipated rise in admission prices, more than offsetting an indicated decline in cabaret revenues resulting from manpower and liquor shortages, will increase the receipts for 1944-45 to $183,400,000, it was disclosed today in the annual budget submitted to Congress by President Roosevelt.

These estimates, based on the current one-on-10 cents tax, compare with actual collections in the fiscal year ended last June 30 of $154,450,722.

The estimate for the current fiscal year was markedly at variance with Treasury figures submitted to Congressional committees during consideration of the now-pending ticket tax bill, which set a figure of $163,500,000, and indicated that the yield from either the House or Senate provisions for an increase in the rate will return some 16 to 20 millions more than the Treasury apparently anticipated.

In his budget message, the President repeated the request he made Tuesday for adoption of a "realistic" tax law, providing at least the $10,500,000,000 sought last fall by the Treasury. He disclosed that over-all expenditures during the coming fiscal year would be $99,760,000, toward the meeting of which revenues of only $40,769,000 are now foreseen, leaving a deficit of $59,000,000,000, which will bring the public debt to a total of $258,000,000,000 on June 30, 1945.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Boston Vandalism Now Under Control

BOSTON, Jan. 13.—Except for some continued defacing of theatre walls in Scollay Square and a few isolated cases in other districts, the wave of vandalism has practically ceased; according to reports made by police to Col. Thomas F. Sullivan, new commissioner.

Groups of police have been stationed for weeks in neighborhoods and in heavily populated downtown districts and have cracked down heavily on offenders. They found vandalism in theatres was the work of 'teenagers; in most instances parents were working in war plants. With warm weather there will be a complete policing of Boston Common.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Ohio Admission Tax Yields Two Millions

COLUMBUS, Jan. 13.—Collection of $2,175,795 in Ohio admission taxes for 1943 is reported by Don H. Ebright, state treasurer, a record high since the three per cent state tax on grosses became effective. Censorship fee collections for the year were $172,995.

Comparatively, admission tax collections in 1942 were $1,939,668, and censorship fees were $188,608.

'Dimes' Drive 'Our War on Home Front'

(Continued from page 1)

war bond drive and the infantile paralysis crusade.

"I know of no other industry so crowded with men and women who are so willing to undertake a double job for their country," said Chairman Schenck.

He reported that the number of pledged theatres so far lined up for audience-collections during March of Dimes Week exceeds those recruited at a similar time last year. Every state in the Union is represented with pledges.

"Virtually all of the larger circuits have held meetings of managers and have worked out more ambitious plans than ever to make sure that every possible dime marches into those collection baskets," said a 'Dimes' committeeman.

Garson Trailers Due Soon

The Greer Garson appeal trailers—15,000 of them—will soon be on their way to theatres sending in pledges.

To assist short-handed theatres, the Women's Division of the National Foundation will have available volunteers in every county, in case they are needed to help make collections.

This year many theatres plan to squeeze in an extra collection even at the lightly-attended "supper shows." It is pointed out that if 10,000 theatres work in a third or fourth daily collection and only pick up a few dollars at each collection it will amount to a large sum.

Thousands of ushers, doormen and cashiers are volunteering to take two of the $2 coin cards and have them filled with dimes by friends. This extra money—which might easily total nationally another $200,000—will be tossed into the theatre collections.

The theatre's part in the infantile paralysis drive will be emphasized in scores of spot radio announcements as part of the National Foundation's air publicity campaign.

Greater Need Than Ever

With serious epidemics of infantile paralysis reported from many sections of the country in 1943, the need for funds is described as greater this year. Collections of 1943 totalled over $2,116,000, or nearly 40 per cent of all funds collected by the National Foundation. This year, optimistic campaign leaders are shooting at a $3,000,000 target for this industry.

"So, in January," said the 'Dimes' committeeman, "we have our two industry generals — General Nick Schenck and his March of Dimes army blasting at a $3,000,000 objective; and General Charles Skouras of the 4th War Loan army raising his sights to hit a $5,500,000,000 bond-sale target!"

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Artkino Follows Goldwyn

Opening date here for Artkino's Russian-made "No Greater Love," dubbed in English, has been set for Jan. 26 at the Victoria Theatre, Broadway, following the run of Samuel Goldwyn's "The North Star."

An invitation premiere on Jan. 25 will be sponsored by the Greater New York unit of the American Women's Voluntary Services.

Heavy Schedule of Color in New Films

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—Indication of the extent to which exhibitors will be serviced with color films in coming months is seen in the scheduling of 45 Technicolor features, including 10 currently released, 14 ready for release, 11 in production and 10 in preparation. The list follows:

Current: M-G-M's "Best Foot Forward," "Lassie Come Home," "Salute to the Marines" and "Thousands Cheer"; Paramount's "For Whom the Bell Tolls"; 20th Century-Fox's "Heaven Can Wait" and "Sweet Rosy O'Grady"; Universal's "Phantom of the Opera"; Warner Bros.' "This Is the Army," and the Disney-UA "Victory Through Air Power."

Ready for release: Universal's "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves" and "Cobra Woman"; M-G-M's "America" and "Broadway Rhythm"; 20th Century-Fox's "Buffalo Bill," "The Gang's All Here" and "Pin Up Girl"; Columbia's "Cover Girl"; Warner Bros.' "Desert Song"; Paramount's "Frenchman's Creek," "Riding High" and "Story of Dr. Wassell"; and Samuel Goldwyn's "Up in Arms."

In Production

In production: Columbia's "At Night We Dream"; 20th Century-Fox's "Greenwich Village," "Home in Indiana" and "Wilson"; Universal's "Gypsy Wildcat"; Paramount's "Incendiary Blonde" and "Rainbow Island," and MGM's "Kismet," "Meet Me in St. Louis," 'Mr. Co-Ed" and "National Velvet."

In preparation: International's "Belle of the Yukon"; Paramount's "Bring on the Girls"; Universal's "Caroline" and "The Climax"; RKO's "The Gibson Girl" and "The Robe"; 20th Century-Fox's "Son of Flicka" and "Where Do We Go from Here"; Warner Bros.' "Strolling Down the Avenue," and Columbia's "Tonight and Every Night."

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Seek to Expedite State Dep't Aid

(Continued from page 1)

tinued with a luncheon session at the Harvard Club. In addition to the State Department representatives the following were among those present: Will H. Hays, Spyros P. Skouras, N. Peter Rathvon, J. J. O'Connor, J. Robert Rubin, Joseph Hazen, Nate B. Spingold, Walter Gould, John W. Hicks, Morton Spring, Joseph Hummel, T. P. Mulrooney, Al Daff, George Weltner, F. W. Allport and Carl E. Milliken.

Hays issued the following statement at the close of the meeting: "The importance of freedom of expression everywhere in the world was discussed at the meeting. This is regarded as one of the basic factors in the maintenance of future peace. Mr. de Wolf emphasized to the picture executives their responsibility to exercise the greatest care in the fair picturization of all other nations and their institutions and the fair presentation of the United States and its people to the world."

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Klaz to Assist Rogers

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—Adolph Klaz, medically discharged from the war, and who saw action at Dutch Harbor, has been signed by Charles E. Rogers as a member of his production staff.

630,000 Servicemen See Films Nightly

(Continued from page 1)

jor Arthur Loew and Capt. Seymour Mayer.

Major Hubbell said that on one typical night, that of Oct. 1, which was taken as an index of conditions prevailing throughout the Fall of 1943, a total of 1,269 film shows were played in overseas theatres. Attendances ranged from 15,000 men in an open-air New Guinea amphitheatre, conditioned by tropical breezes, to 11 men in a lonely Quonset hut at a freezing Alaskan outpost.

The survey, it was said, disclosed the prompt delivery of Hollywood product through Army film exchanges around the globe under the jurisdiction of overseas commanding generals. With few exceptions the pictures, presented without admission charge to service audiences, were currently playing in this country.

The biggest problem to date has been that of getting a completely adequate supply of projectors; however, the War Department reports that as of November all projector requirements for overseas had been met in shipments from this country.

The survey indicates that pictures remain the most popular type of entertainment with the men. Recent polls have indicated lack of interest in Westerns and propaganda pictures. Good action dramas, mysteries, musicals with name bands and comedies are their favorites. War pictures are generally frowned upon.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

'Destination Tokyo' Gets Good $25,000

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 13.—With holdovers dominating bills at first-runs this week, business continues good here. "Destination Tokyo" at the Fox is the only new film in town and leads the box office parade with $25,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 12:

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
"Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (Univ.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $25,600. (Average, $16,500)

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average, $16,900)

"Government Girl" (RKO)
"Falcon and the Co-Eds" (RKO)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average, $8,000)

"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"Never a Dull Moment" (Univ.)
AMBASSADOR—(3,154) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average, $12,500)

"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
"Victory Through Air Power" (UA-Disney)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average, $6,900)

"Iron Major" (RKO)
"Crazy House" (Univ.)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average, $6,000)

"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
"Hostages" (Para.)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average, $5,000)

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Altec Gets Another

Altec Service Corp. has closed with the Joy Houck Circuit, New Orleans, to furnish repair and replacement parts for sound reproducing equipment in the 35 Houck houses. A. MacIntyre negotiated the deal for Altec.

'Love' Dual Fetches Big $41,500 in L.A.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13.—"No Time for Love" and "Tornado" struck the fancy of a somewhat selective but still show-conscious population here to give the two Paramount houses $41,500 against a $32,422 average, while "Government Girl" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman" brought the Chinese-Loew's State-Uptown triad around $58,000, compared to a $49,837 average. Clear weather, a bit cold around the edges, as Californians rate cold, kept nobody away from the theatres.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 12:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average, $11,880)

"Government Girl" (RKO)
"Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman" (Univ.)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $17,700. (Average, $15,692)

"The North Star" (RKO)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average, $10,590)

"Seventh Victim" (RKO)
"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
HAWAII — (1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average, $5,865)

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"The Falcon and the Co-Eds" (RKO)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average, $19,544)

"Government Girl" (RKO)
"Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman" (Univ.)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $27,500. (Average, $23,577)

"The North Star" (RKO)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,250. (Average, $14,354)

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"The Falcon and the Co-Eds" (RKO)
PANTAGES—(2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average, $16,846)

"No Time for Love" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT (Hollywood)—(1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average, $11,115)

"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Tornado" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT (Downtown)—(3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $27,000. (Average, $21,307)

"The North Star" (RKO)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average. $9,873)

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS — (2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 3rd wek. Gross: $21,000. (Average, $27,967)

"Government Girl" RKO)
"Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $12,800. (Average, $10,318)

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,111. (Average, $16,362)

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,889. (Average, $18,480)

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,439. (Average, $17,168)

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
FOX-WILSHIRE — (2,300) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $9,700. (Average, $11,750)

"A Bond for Every Seat"

'Lady' Showing Changed

Paramount announced yesterday a change in the trade-showing date of "Lady in the Dark"; it will be screened here Feb. 3 at the Normandie, and in Los Angeles on the same day. Elsewhere the trade-showing will take place in Paramount exchanges on Feb. 28.

Drive Pace Quickens; Last Minute Roundup

Skouras Speaks to 400 in Boston Meet As Drive Impends

BOSTON, Jan. 13.—More than 400 exhibitors, branch managers and district managers in the New England area met today in the Hotel Statler with members of the industry's executive committee for the Fourth War Loan Drive. It was the largest and best-attended industry meeting in many months.

Charles P. Skouras, national industry chairman, addressed the group, emphasizing the part of the small exhibitor in the coming campaign. He said the industry would work as "part of a great nation-wide campaign," concentrating on the idea of selling bonds for America and her war effort, rather than on promoting individual interests through the drive. "Any credit," said Skouras, "which comes to the industry for its part in the coming campaign, must come from without and not from ballyhoo within."

Sam Pinanski, Massachusetts chairman, introduced head-table guests, including Frank Vennett, Connie Russell, E. M. Fay and E. J. Fahey, state chairmen from Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, respectively; Harry Rogovin, exchange chairman; B. V. Sturdivant, Si Fabian, "Rick" Ricketson, Robert Mochrie, Andrew Krappmann, Leon Bamberger and Sam Shain.

Hosts at the meeting were Martin Mullin, New England chairman; Harry Browning, New England public relations head for the drive; "Red" King, RKO Theatres; Joe Longo, Loew Theatres; Paul Levi, Metropolitan; Jack Saif, Paramount; Herb Philbrick and Geneva Melvin, of Browning's staff; Bert MacKenzie, of the M-G-M publicity department; Phil Engel, United Artists, and others.

At the conclusion, a portrait of Skouras was unveiled by Fabian. Following the main session, smaller meetings were held and luncheons were sponsored by Warners, M-G-M and the M. and P. circuit.

Skouras will visit major New England houses. He will be accompanied by a contingent of Hollywood stars and a group of war heroes.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Drive Trailers Made For Spanish Houses

Special Spanish language trailers and accessories are in work for theatres in Spanish-speaking territories for use in conjunction with the Fourth War Loan Drive.

In addition to the trailers, narration for which will be done by Arturo De Cordoba, special one-sheets, heralds and tack cards are being printed in Spanish for distribution and current-drive use in the areas.

The territory designated for use of this material is the Southwest. The theatres, 253 in all, are in New Mexico, Arizona, California, Texas, Colorado.

Feb. 7 Set as 'Free Movie Day' for N. Y.

The metropolitan area industry committee of the Fourth War Loan drive has selected Feb. 7 as "Free Movie Day."

Launching of the industry phase of the drive will take place in Times Square Jan. 17, when the symbol on which the industry is basing its participation, will be unveiled by Hollywood stars. Among those who will be present are W. Randolph Burgess and Nevil Ford, of the War Finance Committee of the Treasury Department; Charles P. Skouras, general industry chairman; B. V. Sturdivant, industry campaign director; Edward L. Alperson, New York metropolitan area chairman, and Harry Brandt, Manhattan chairman. Contingents of the armed forces, war heroes and a U. S. Army Band will be highlights of the unveiling slated for 12 noon.

"A Boud for Every Seat"

Mobile Units Set As Bond Agencies

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13. — Southern California theatres are providing 86 mobile units to tour Greater Los Angeles and act as bond-issuing agencies for the Fourth War Loan Drive. The Citizen's War Service Corp. is cooperating. It is expected that every home in the area will be covered by these units, with theatres receiving credit for sales.

One hundred houses will conduct a "Buy a Bond and Be a Guest" stunt.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Bay Ridge to Buy An Air Ambulance

To stimulate bond sales in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, for the Fourth War Loan, James Bergen, manager of the Dyker, is asking his patronage to buy an air ambulance for $150,000. As bonds are sold they will be registered on a huge thermometer which will be erected on the rear wall of the theatre. Already $25,000 worth have been sold for the ambulance, which will be called "Bay Ridge Sky Angel."

Seating Chart to Rise on Broadway

A gargantuan seating chart from three to five stories high is being planned by Broadway theatre managers for erection in Times Square to record the Fourth War Loan bonds sold in Times Square houses during the forthcoming drive.

This symbol of the campaign throughout the industry, will serve as a barometer for bond sales in the Times Square theatres. It will contain approximately 100,000 squares, each of which will denote a theatre seat. The blocks will be painted on both sides of the sign.

The plan was formed at a luncheon meeting held by Broadway theatre managers under chairmanship of Irving Lesser, managing director of Roxy.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

New England Has 12 In "Honored Hundred

BOSTON, Jan. 13.—First in the "Honored Hundred" contest in the sale of War Bonds in the New England area are these managers and exhibitors; William Canning, Empire, Fall River; Maurice Corkery, Central, Cambridge; James A. Field, Paramount, Salem; Albert Lourie, Oriental, Mattapan; Louis Kenney, State, East Milton; Jack Markle, Coolidge Corner, Brookline; Joseph Marquis, Capitol, Allston; A. R. Morton, Boston Fenway; Arthur S. Murch, Jr., North Shore, Gloucester; Howard Parker, Capitol, Arlington; Samuel Torgan, Keith, Lowell; Robert Tuttle, Loew's Poli, Worcester, and Phil Zeller, Ware, Beverly.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Canada Is Thankful For War Bond Help

In a letter to Francis S. Harmon, executive vice-chairman of the War Activities Committee, Hon. J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance for Canada, expressed his country's gratitude for the assistance given by the industry in Canadian Victory Loans.

Impressive Rites to Mark Launching Of Vessel Named for Carole Lombard

San Pedro, Cal., Jan. 13.—Industry leaders headed by Louis B. Mayer, film stars, Treasury Department chieftains, Army and Navy dignitaries and U. S. Maritime officials, will assemble Saturday at Calship for the launching of the new Liberty ship, SS. *Carole Lombard.*

This launching is tied to the industry's Fourth War Loan Drive and the naming of the ship is in commemoration of the actress who lost her life in a plane crash while on a voluntary bond tour Jan. 16, 1942. Jerome K. Doolan, general manager of Calship, is in charge of arrangements.

The committee includes Y. Frank Freeman, president, Ass'n of M. P. Producers; James Cagney, president, Screen Actors Guild; Willard Keith, who will represent Charles P. Skouras; Mary C. McCall, president, Screen Writers Guild; and Kenneth Thomson, chairman of the Hollywood Victory Committee. John C. Carmody, chairman of the ship-naming committee of the U. S. Maritime Commission, is en route from Washington to appear on the program.

Irene Dunne has been named sponsor for the ship. "Fieldsey," secretary and closest companion of the late Miss Lombard, will be matron of honor. She is now Mrs. Walter Lang, wife of the director.

Paramount Gears For Bond Drive; Seeks New High

The entire Paramount organization is backing the attack for the Fourth War Loan, with the aim of rolling up the greatest possible total in bond sales, both throughout the parent company and in the theatres operated by partners and associates.

With key men in the company and theatre partners active on national, state and local committees, Paramount is determined to go over the top in an unprecedented effort.

During the Third War Loan conducted in September, Paramount Pictures, Inc., and theatre partners subscribed a grand total of $12,204,965, exclusive of subscriptions of the personnel of the Hollywood studio or theatres. Plans are now shaping up for a "repeat performance" to equal or possibly exceed this record of extra bond sales within the company and its personnel.

Paramount has approximately 5,500 employes from theatres, 409 from the home office and exchanges and 525 from the studio in the armed services.

In many territories the partners will set the pattern for Fourth War Loan showmanship and will spearhead the drive. Bond premieres, "Free Movie Days" and other special events are being planned.

The distributing arm is again cooperating fully with all plans as developed by the distribution division of the national committee in supplying prints gratis for war bond premieres.

The studio is again giving its complete cooperation, Its key executives are among the drive leaders and its talent like that of other studios, will be found well represented in Fourth War Loan activities.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Navy Show Highlight Of Plan in Missouri

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 13.—The big "blow off" of the Fourth War Loan Drive for Missouri will be a giant "Meet Your Navy" Bond rally today.

Taking over the Municipal Auditorium, the industry, with Elmer C. Rhoden, state chairman, at the helm, is in full charge of this function. Navy contractors in Kansas City have put up expenses to bring Commander Eddie Peabody and 150 entertainers from the Great Lakes Navy Training Station for the show.

Every theatre in Kansas City will give bond buyers reserved seats.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Mochrie Calls for Employe Meetings

Robert Mochrie, general sales manager of RKO, has requested all of his district and branch managers to call meetings of exchange employes as soon as possible to outline the plan set up whereby they can purchase at least one more bond during the Fourth War Loan Drive. This is in addition to the regular weekly deduction plan now in force.

San Francisco Houses Unite In Bond Drive

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—All local theatres are uniting in a special program of war bond premieres, running from Jan. 18 to Feb. 15, according to Fay S. Reeder of Fox-West Coast Theatres and public relations state chairman for the Fourth War Loan Drive.

Major downtown houses will hold a series of special shows. Neighborhood theatres will have "country stores," special music and extra performances. Bonds of any denomination will provide admission to one of the special shows.

Among the first runners the RKO-Golden Gate will open the series with an all-vaudeville midnight show Jan. 17. Leading acts from stage shows now in San Francisco and from other theatres will be presented.

A major film will have its premiere 'Frisco' show at the bond premiere at the Orpheum Jan. 26. On Feb. 2 the Paramount will present a premiere, and on Feb. 8 the Warfield will celebrate the campaign with an all-vaudeville midnight show.

At the Fox a special Army show, sequel to the stage version of "This Is the Army," will be shown Feb. 14. The show will take to the road after its premiere there.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

265 Bond Premieres Fixed in Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 13.—Climaxing weeks of preparation, the Fourth War Loan Drive will be highlighted in Wisconsin with the presentation of 265 bond premieres throughout the state. All downtown theatres will hold premieres Feb. 21. Outlying theatres will feature premieres consisting of films and stage shows by local talent and night club entertainers.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Ask If Governors Will Cite Winners

Governors of all states are in receipt of letters from Secretary Morgenthau and Charles P. Skouras Fourth War Loan Drive national chairman, advising them of the "Honored Hundred" contest and asking their cooperation in officially citing their state winners in special ceremonies following the contest.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Tennessee Dropping War Bond Auctions

MEMPHIS, Jan. 13.—Simultaneous premieres of new pictures at two downtown theatres, probably Loew's and the Malco, will replace the bond auctions previously considered here as a feature of the Fourth War Loan Drive, according to M. A. Lightman, head of the Malco circuit and chairman of the campaign for Memphis and Shelby County.

"The system of holding bond auctions delays the crowd and is not conducive to the best bond selling," Lightman said. It is believed that theatres of the state will not use the auction idea.

Industry, Poised, Sets Aim For New Top in 4th Loan

(*Continued from page* 1)

runs through Feb. 15, will easily double or treble the bare minimum cited. An average of a $100 bond per seat, for example, would run the total of theatre sales over the billion dollar mark. The nation's goal in the drive is $14,000,000,000.

Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the drive, announced in Boston yesterday that arrangements have meen made with the Treasury Department to extend the time of the "Honored Hundred" contest to make eligible all bond sales registered during the period from Jan. 1 through Feb. 29. Thus, contestants whose Fourth Loan Drive efforts were begun in advance of the official opening of the campaign, and those whose maximum sales programs occur after the official close of the campaign and up to the end of February, will have their full sales of "E" bonds credited to them in the contest.

George J. Schaefer, field director of the campaign, issued the following statement on the eve of the opening of the drive:

"Our industry has again been complimented by the Treasury Department by being asked to participate in the Fourth War Loan. As always, it will be an all-out effort on the part of everyone directly or indirectly connected with the industry under the able leadership of Charles P. Skouras and his associates from the West Coast.

"The campaign is taking form and its success is assured. Everyone's shoulder is to the wheel and we are all certain we will realize our goal—'A Bond for Every Seat'."

Si Fabian, chairman of the theatres' division of the drive, pointed out that the minimum goal of "A Bond for Every Seat" will mean more than 11,000,000 "E" bond sales, if realized.

"While the goal is an exhibitor's goal," he said, "the entire industry has marshalled its forces squarely behind the effort. A slackening on the part of anyone in production, exhibition or distribution will place the attainment of the goal in doubt.

"The special Fourth War Loan issues of the industry trade press are a perfect example of the industry's willingness to cooperate, and at the same time are a measure of the magnitude of the campaign."

Robert Selig, assistant campaign manager in charge of the "Honored Hundred" contest, has requested that all circuit managers sign indvidual entry blanks for the contest and send them in to campaign headquarters in order to achieve complete theatre by theatre representation. He pointed out that signing of the entry blank does not necessarily mean a pledge, but is merely an agreement that the signer will do the best job possible toward selling a bond for every seat.

The drive will be stimulated both locally and nationally by the bond appearances of top stars, who will visit more than 100 key cities. Individual theatres by several thousands have completed arrangements for bond premieres, admission to which will be by purchase of bonds, and thousands of others will offer "Free Movie Day" on various dates throughout the campaign, at which purchasers of bonds will be admitted without charge.

Theatre staffs down to the most modest employe will have a share in the drive and all film salesmen will contribute to the industry's campaign effort. Special bond proclamations urging the public to meet and beat local bond quotas will be issued by Governors of the states on Jan. 16 at the suggestion of the industry's bond committee.

Connecticut Sets "Free Movie Day"

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 13—As almost daily meetings continue on the Fourth War Loan Drive in this state, Harry F. Shaw, state chairman, announces Feb. 8 has been set for Free Movie Day. Distributor representatives under Barney Pitkin have met and been assigned to contact exhibitors in all parts of the state for cooperation in this venture and in March of Dimes collections during the month.

In addition to committees already announced, a special bond premiere committee is headed by Pitkin, with Maurice Goldstein as co-chairman, and Maurice Bailey, Albert Pickus, William Shartin, John Pavone, Edward Ruff, Carl Goe, Harry LaVine, and Jerry Lewis assisting. Also James Bracken has been appointed in charge of tickets and printing; Irving C. Jacocks, Jr., and Herman Levy, military contacts; William O'Connell, decorations; Al Winnick, music; Thomas Shea and Matthew Kennedy, projectionists; J. J. Miller, stage craft; Ben Simon and Sam Weber, transportation; Sidney Kieper, Freda Svirsky and Gus Bauman, entertainment and parades; and Jim Darby and Bill Larner, radio.

Hollywood Stars Are on Their Way

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—The first star contingent left on its bond tour tonight and the second starts Friday. The "War Bondardiers" include: Dana Andrews, Lucille Ball, Lee Bowman, Laraine Day, Brian Donlevy, Errol Flynn, Dennis Morgan, Lloyd Nolan, Gene Tierney, Franchot Tone, Zorina. The "bond battalion" is composed of Ramsey Ames, Lois Andrews, Fay Bainter, Charles Bickford, Edgar Buchanan, Leslie Brooks, Lon Chaney, Albert Dekker, Porter Hall, Paul Kelly Edgar Kennedy, Lynn Merrick, Charles Ruggles, Ann Savage, Elaine Sheppard, Helen Walker, Marjorie Woodworth and Raymond Walburn.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Believes Hollywood Will Set New High

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—Henry Ginsberg, chairman of the Fourth War Loan Drive at the studios, tonight said, "Hollywood film workers have set great records in bond buying in the past drives, but we have never been content to rest on laurels. The committee is confident we can surpass all previous achievements."

Buffalo Area Primed; Plans Fully Plotted

BUFFALO, Jan. 13.—Bond premieres and Free Movie Day are expected to play an important part in campaigns of upper New York exhibitors for the Fourth War Loan Drive.

Wholesale cooperation is anticipated. At a meeting held by J. Myer Schine, upstate chairman, here last week, a number of exhibitors infrequently in attendance at meetings dealing with mass theatre cooperation of any kind, were present.

Appproximately 100 were present, including Mayor Joseph J. Kelly, Col. John M. McDowell, commanding officer, 2nd Service Command; Lt. Commander Francis D. Miller, U. S. Navy; Captain Edwin R. Brecker, USMC; Major Winston V. Morrow, Armed Forces Induction Center; Commander Martin W. Rasmussen, USCG; Lars Potter, State Deputy Administrator of the Treasury Department; Carlton P. Cooke, Erie County Finance Committee; Chairman Dan Streeter, Fourth War Loan Drive; William Baldwin, Finance Committee Publicity chairman.

From WAC were Si Fabian, Louis W. Schine, Seymour L. Morris, Vincent McFaul and Chairman Al Herman.

County officials held their own meetings during the week.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Oregon's Exhibitors Meet in the Capitol

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 13.—Oregon exhibitors at a meeting yesterday at the state capitol with Governor Earl Snell and Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr., as hosts discussed this territory's participation in the Fourth War Loan Drive. It was the largest assembly of exhibitors and distributors held in Oregon. The Treasury Department's War Finance Committee, state chairman, executive manager, deputy administrators and other officials were present. Albert J. Finke presided.

Following welcoming speeches by the Governor, secretary of state, Army officers, and E. C. Sammons, Oregon War Finance Committee chairman; Mrs. J. J. Parker, Oregon state chairman; Louis Amacher, distributor chairman; Bob White, chairman of the exhibitor's committee; and M. M. Mesher, assistant state chairman, were speakers.

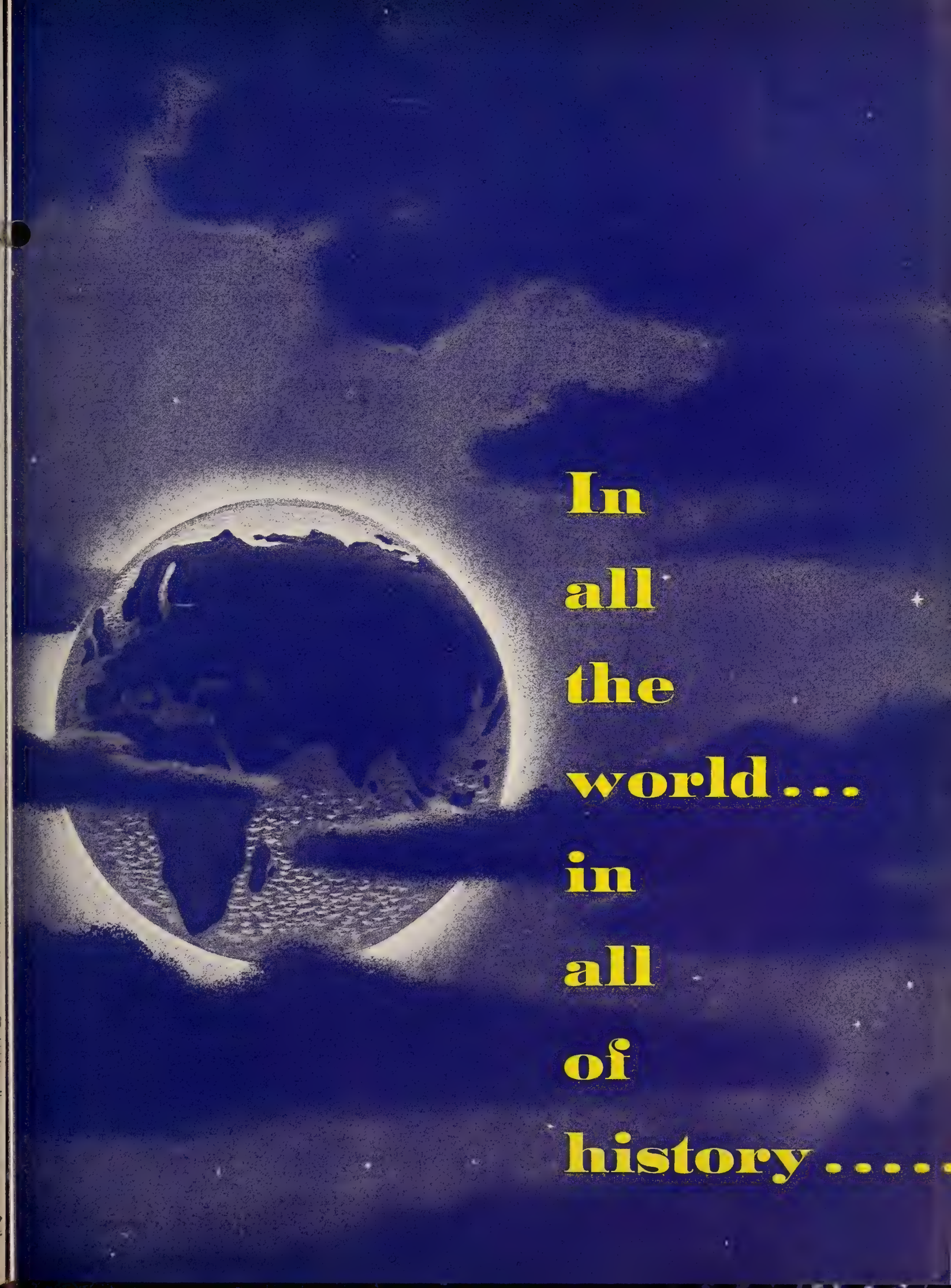
"A Bond for Every Seat"

NSS Handling Extra Bond Applications

Extra Treasury Dep't bond application blanks have been shipped to all National Screen Service branches for Fourth War Loan Drive use.

THE next 46 pages of today's *Motion Picture Daily* tell the full story of the Fourth War Loan Drive campaign.

This way, please ➔


In
all
the
world...
in
all
of
history.....

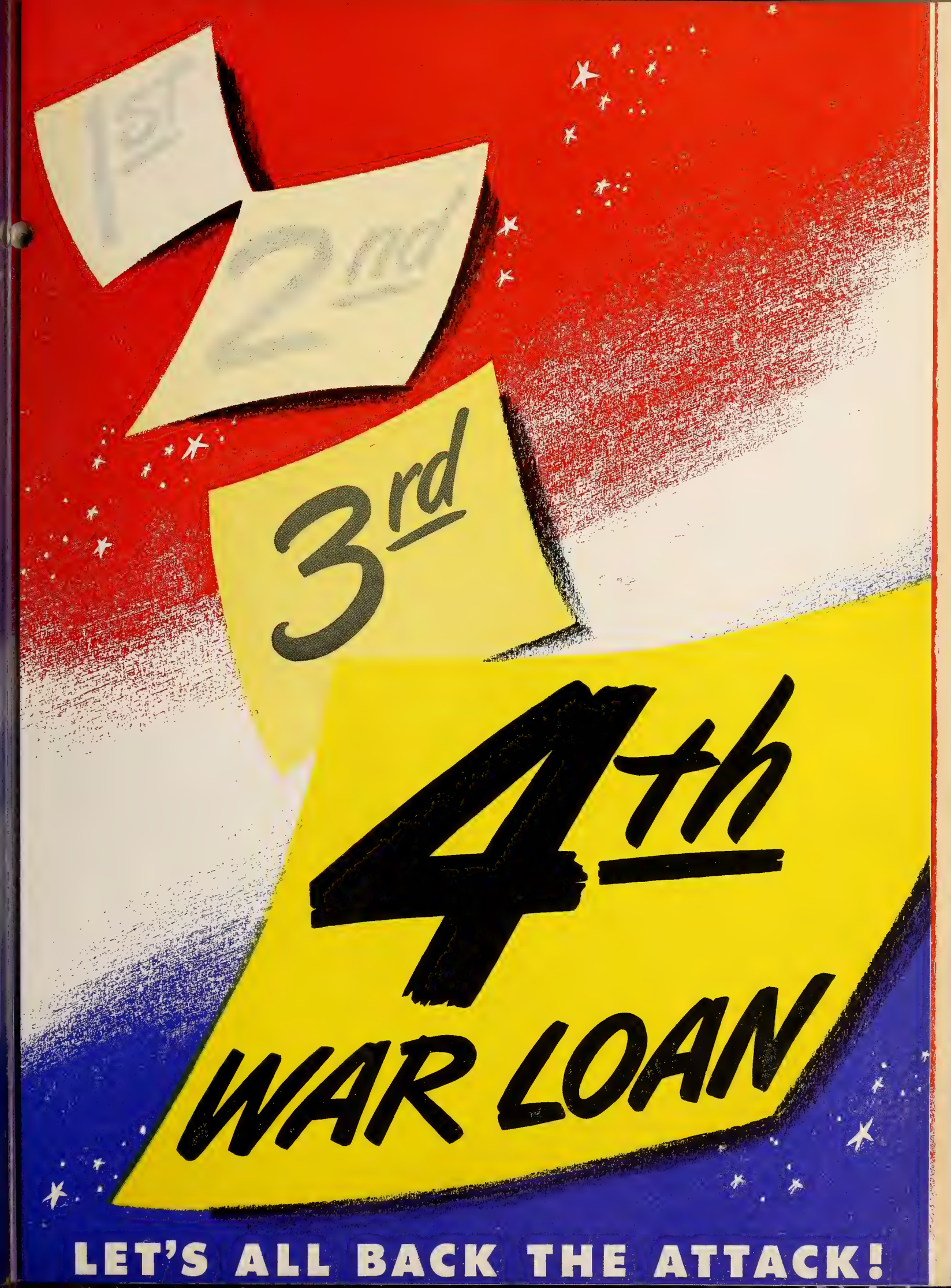
Let's all back the attack!

4th WAR LOAN



Our goal: A bond for every seat!

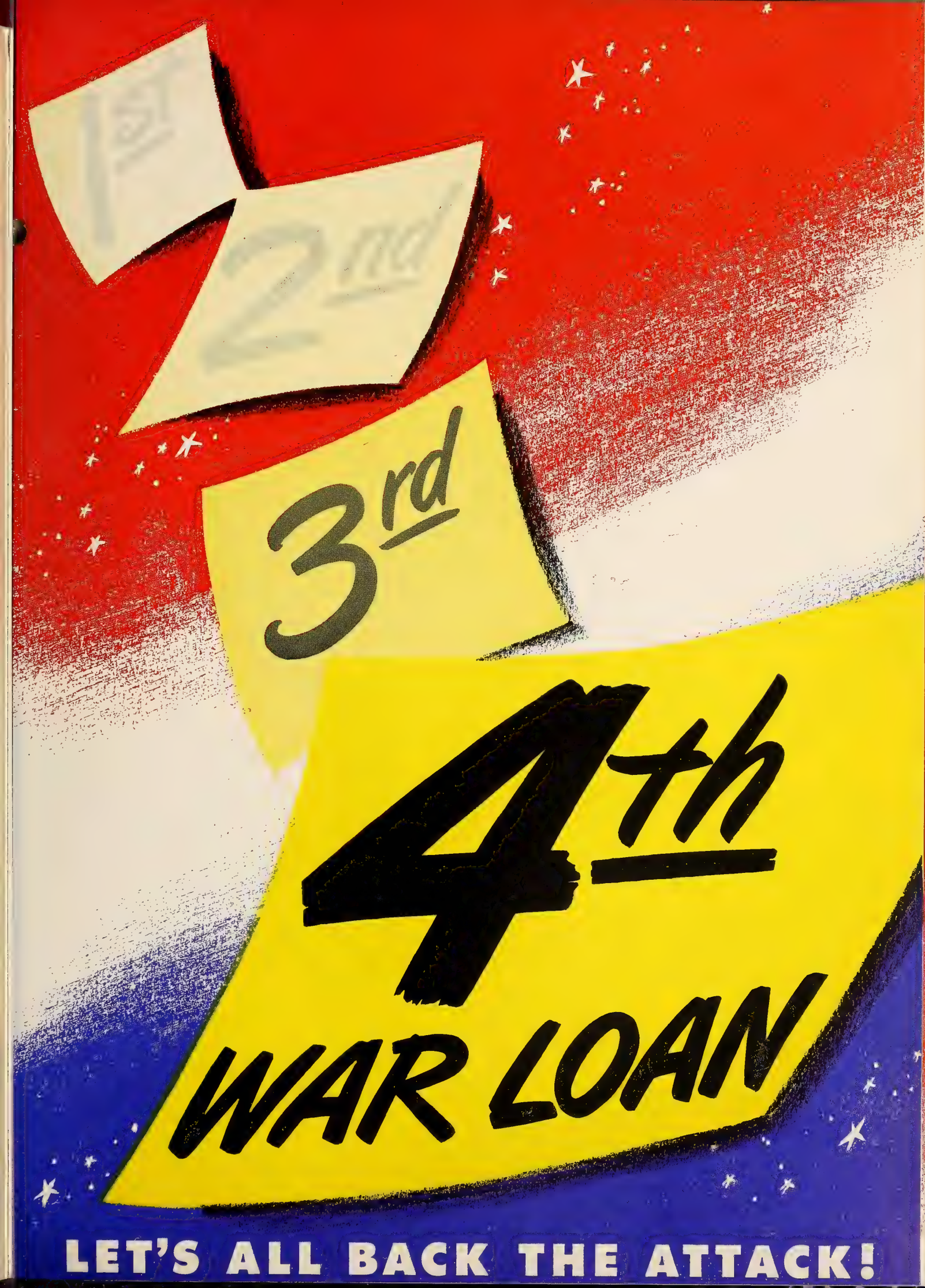
THIS ADVERTISEMENT CONTRIBUTED BY 20th CENTURY-FOX

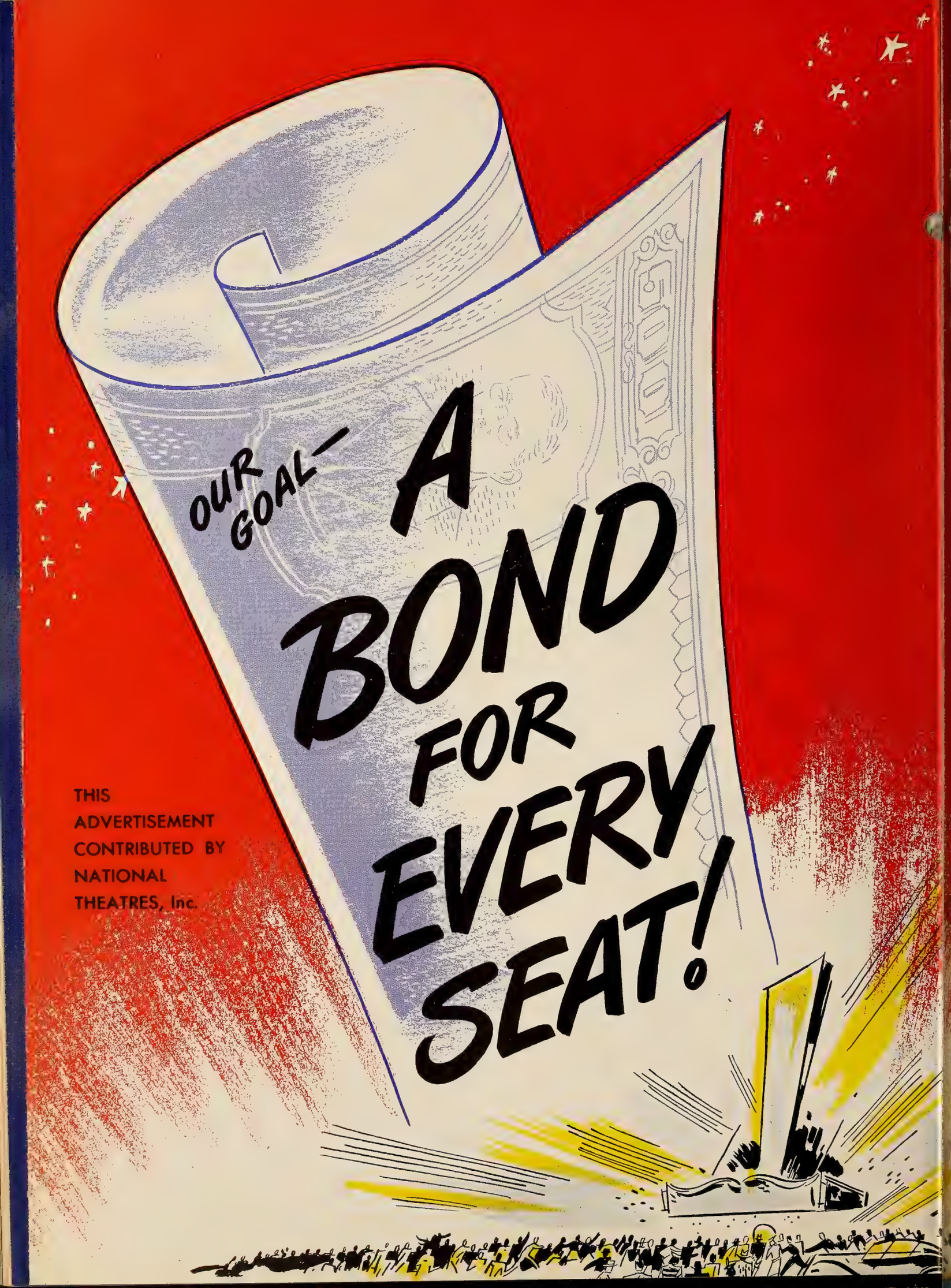

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
WAR LOAN
LET'S ALL BACK THE ATTACK!

BEHIND THE SECOND FRONT



are 16,000 OTHER FRONTS


1st
2nd
3rd
4th
WAR LOAN
LET'S ALL BACK THE ATTACK!


OUR GOAL—
A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT!
THIS ADVERTISEMENT CONTRIBUTED BY NATIONAL THEATRES, Inc.

Treasury Dep't Tags 80,000,000 Prospects

Views This As Industry Goal In New Drive

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Eighty million theatregoers have been tagged by the Treasury as the objective for the industry in the Fourth War Loan Drive opening Tuesday.

To those theatregoers the members of the industry are expected to sell a sizeable portion of the five and one-half billion dollars worth of "E" bonds which has been set as the contribution of individuals toward the $14,000,000,000 total which the Treasury has set.

Looking back at the successful efforts of the industry in the past, not only in the previous bond-selling campaigns but the other money-raising drives as well, Washington officials are confident that the men and women who work in and with motion pictures will come through again. How much bond money has been raised by the industry, directly and indirectly, is difficult of computation, for sales in the theatres themselves constitute but a portion of the purchases actuated by the industry's efforts. Yet officials know it runs into very important money.

"The Treasury Department is deeply appreciative of the motion picture industry's invaluable contribution to the success of the War Bond effort and War Loan drives," Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr., said.

"Its help is needed more than ever so that we will be successful in raising the drive's goal of $14,000,000,000 between January 18 and February 15."

Industry Is On Own

At the office of Theodore Gamble, national director of the war finance division, it was indicated that the industry's program for participating in the coming drive was being left pretty much to the industry itself.

Claude Lee, Paramount public relations head, is serving as liaison between the industry and the Treasury during the term of the drive, but Gamble, in a recent talk to film men, pointed out that the department employs a man to head every field of participation except the motion picture industry, which he said needs no help to accomplish the objective it sets for itself.

"The entire industry is girding itself for an all-out bond-selling effort during the Fourth War Loan," it was explained. "Coordinated through the industry's War Activities Committee, all branches of the film business have placed themselves at the disposal of the Treasury Department to form a coast-to-coast, border-to-border 'combined operations'."

Secretary Morgenthau himself has pointed out the cooperation of the industry in the selling of bonds is important because the screens and auditoriums of some 16,000 theatres provide a direct, personal contact with a huge slice of the American public.

"The 80,000,000 or more moviegoers of America are also the bond-buying 'prospects' our War Finance Committees must sell," one official said. "The motion picture markets and our bond market coincide."

In fact, it was disclosed, so much reliance is being placed upon the earnestness and ingenuity of the men in the industry that all local War Finance Committees are being urged to take full advantage of the willingness of their local exhibitors to cooperate.

"These experienced showmen logically can help arrange and carry out rallies, patriotic ceremonies, parades and other inspirational events of a spectacular, theatrical nature," local committee chairman have been told.

"In every state, county and city, the War Activities Committee has its local representatives—all practical theatre men anxious to assist. It is suggested you make these people an integral, working unit of your local Fourth War Loan group."

Treasury officials expressed themselves as highly pleased with the comprehensive program which has been worked out for the industry—the trailer, Film Bulletin and newsreel space, the big broadcasts, the war bond premieres, etc.

They are particularly pleased over two new ideas which have been proposed—the "stock companies" which would headquarter in a limited number of large cities, presenting bond "dramas" at rallies, and the "Bond for every seat" campaign.

It was pointed out there are some 8,000 theatres which have issuing agent facilities for selling bonds, with a total of some 8,000,000 seats, so that if the goal of a bond for every one of these seats is achieved—and the industry is confident it will be—it would mean 8,000,000 bonds for a total of not less than $200,000,000, and probably much more. That, said one official, is a "rather ambitious undertaking that the showmen have volunteered for themselves."

While the Treasury is looking for large sales by the industry directly, it is also looking to the industry to "backstop" other groups. In fact, the local campaign committees are being spurred to take every advantage of the facilities of their neighborhood exhibitors and are reminded that the theatre men can not only provide talent but also the showmanship and ingenuity to put campaign features over. Similarly, the traveling talent groups will aid the local committees generally, as will the broadcasts, and thus the industry will not only bear the burden of attaining its own sales objectives but also will aid non-industry groups working to the same end.

The backbone of the industry's effort will be the local exhibitor and the Treasury frankly is challenging him to repeat past performances and come up with new ideas. That is why officials are so pleased over the "Bond for Every Seat" contest; it gets right down to the people who are going to buy the bonds, not once or twice during the campaign but every day in the week while the drive is on.

The local theatre is the keynote of the industry drive, it was pointed out. Local exhibitors are doing an unsurpassed job in promoting and selling war bonds, translating the war bond job into terms of their own communities.

A not inconsiderable part of the industry's bond sales will come from the 200,000 persons connected with the business—and they are not going to be overlooked by the industry's bond salesmen.

Lee Expresses Confidence

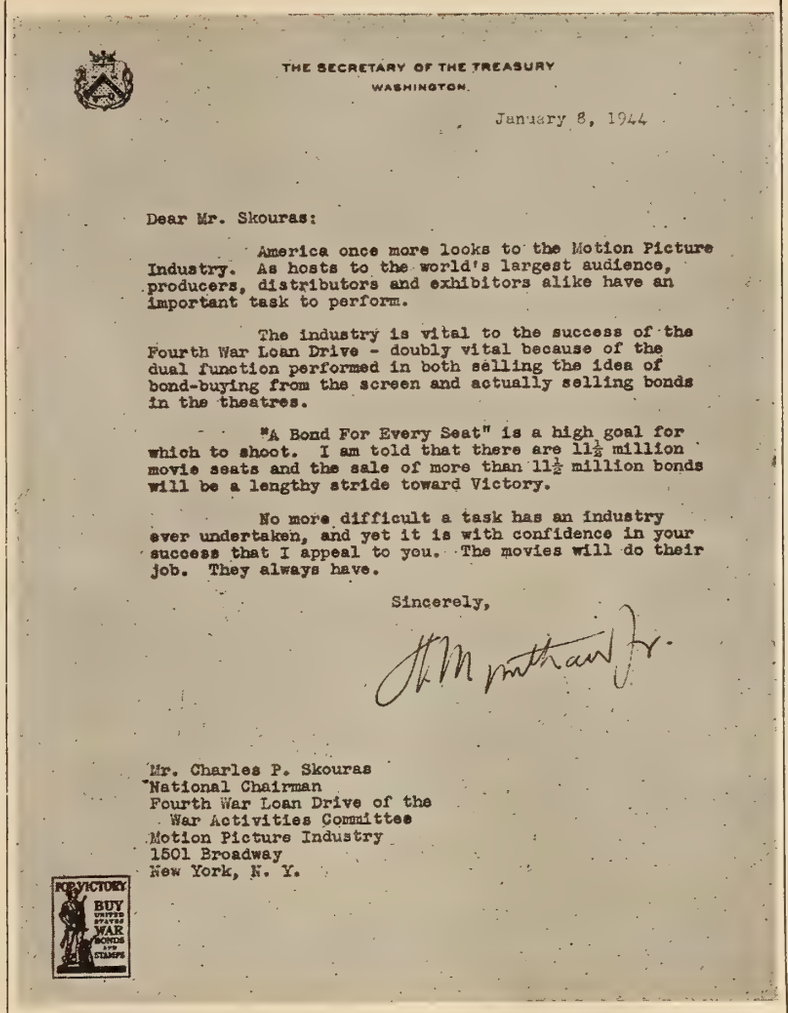
There are many ways in which the exhibitor will participate actively in the coming drive, Claude Lee declared, and added:

"I am sure that, just as I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in, I hope, a useful function in clearing matters between the Treasury and the industry, every exhibitor, every faction in the industry, has a continuing gratitude that the industry as a whole and each man individually is given an opportunity to serve such a vital national need in connection with the war effort.

"It certainly serves a splendid purpose in demonstrating the efficacy of the industry and its contact with the people in every community in the land, that we are given an opportunity to use our facilities and public relationships for a useful purpose in prosecuting the war.

"In the days to come, the costs and sacrifices by people and families will probably be so accelerated that every patriot will feel a deep satisfaction in having a chance to do something that may help to lighten the burden and hasten the end. I am sure that every exhibitor does feel that, and I am convinced that we will unquestionably far exceed the objective we have set ourselves of 'A Bond for Every Seat'."

Washington Is Confident Job Will Be Done



THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

January 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Skouras:

America once more looks to the Motion Picture Industry. As hosts to the world's largest audience, producers, distributors and exhibitors alike have an important task to perform.

The industry is vital to the success of the Fourth War Loan Drive - doubly vital because of the dual function performed in both selling the idea of bond-buying from the screen and actually selling bonds in the theatres.

"A Bond For Every Seat" is a high goal for which to shoot. I am told that there are 11½ million movie seats and the sale of more than 11½ million bonds will be a lengthy stride toward Victory.

No more difficult a task has an industry ever undertaken, and yet it is with confidence in your success that I appeal to you. The movies will do their job. They always have.

Sincerely,

H. Morgenthau Jr.

Mr. Charles P. Skouras
National Chairman
Fourth War Loan Drive of the
War Activities Committee
Motion Picture Industry
1501 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

Fourth War Loan Drive

Swell Bond Campaign With Advisory Group

If Needed, Will Serve to Break Up Bottlenecks

IN addition to the 60 exhibitors who are serving as state chairmen for the Fourth War Loan Drive, Charles P. Skouras, national chairman, has named an entirely new group—the advisory committee.

Made up of 44 individuals, this committee crisscrosses from production to exhibition to distribution and is designed to function as "bottleneck breakers." The personnel follows:

LOUIS ANSELL, Ansell Bros. Theatres, 3616 Olive St., St. Louis.

BARNEY BALABAN, Paramount Pictures, Inc., 1501 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.

JOHN BALABAN, Balaban and Katz, Chicago Theatre Bldg., Chicago.

TRACY BARHAM, Capitol Theatre Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah.

CARTER T. BARRON, Loew's Capitol Theatre, Washington, D. C.

JOSEPH BERNHARD, Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., 321 West 44th St., New York 19, N. Y.

NATE J. BLUMBERG, Universal Pictures Co., Inc., 6th Ave., New York 20, N. Y.

JOSEPH BLUMENFELD, 25 Taylor St., San Francisco, Calif.

JAMES CAGNEY, Screen Actors Guild, 7046 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Calif.

THOMAS J. CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., 444 West 56th St., New York 19, N. Y.

JAMES E. COSTON, Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., 1307 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

NED E. DEPINET, RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 1270 6th Ave., New York 20, N. Y.

ALBERT J. FINKE, Evergreen Theatre Corp., 303 Orpheum Theatre Bldg., Portland 5, Ore.

Y. FRANK FREEMAN, Paramount Pictures, Inc., 5451 Marathon St., Hollywood, Calif.

HENRY GINSBERG, Paramount Pictures, Inc., 5451 Marathon St., Hollywood, Calif.

LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, Paramount Pictures, Inc., 1501 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.

L. C. GRIFFITH, Griffith Amusement Co., 11½ North Lee Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla.

JOHN H. HARRIS, National Variety Clubs, 711 Clark Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

KARL HOBLITZELLE, Majestic Theatre Bldg., Dallas, Tex.

I. J. HOFFMAN, Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., 70 College Ave., New Haven, Conn.

EARL J. HUDSON, United Detroit Theatres, Stroh Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DAVE IDZAL, Fox Theatre, Detroit, Mich.

HARRY KATZ, Monarch Theatres, 1270 6th Ave., New York 20, N. Y.

EDWARD L. KUYKENDALL, M. P. T. O. A., Princess Theatre, Columbus, Miss.

ABE LASTFOGEL, USO Camp Shows, Inc., 8 West 40th St., New York 18, N. Y.

M. A. LIGHTMAN, Malco Theatres, Inc., 138 S. Main St., Memphis 2, Tenn.

SIDNEY B. LUST, 1 Thomas Circle, Washington, D. C.

LOUIS B. MAYER, M-G-M Studio, Culver City, Calif.

ABE MONTAGUE, Columbia Pictures Corp., 729 7th Ave., New York 19, N. Y.

MARTIN J. MULLIN, M. and P. Theatres, 60 Scollay Square, Boston, Mass.

RODNEY PANTAGES, Hollywood Pantages Theatre Corp., 6233 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Calif.

JOHN J. PAYETTE, Warner Bros. Theatres, Earle Theatre Bldg., Washington, D. C.

ROBERT H. POOLE, 1914 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 7, Calif.

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, Loew's, Inc., 1540 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

M. A. ROSENBERG, Parkway Theatre, McKees Rocks, Pa.

EDDIE RUBIN, Welworth Amusement Co., Pantages Theatre, Minneapolis, Minn.

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK, 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Box 900, Beverly Hills, Calif.

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, Loew's Inc., 1540 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

GRADWELL L. SEARS, United Artists Corp., 729 7th Ave., New York 19, N. Y.

EDWIN SILVERMAN, Essaness Theatres, 540 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

MARTIN G. SMITH, 519 Main St., Toledo, O.

KENNETH THOMSON, William Morris Agency, 202 N. Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.

J. R. VOGEL, Loew's Inc., 1540 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

RICHARD WALSH, I. A. T. S. E., 630 5th Ave., New York 20, N. Y.

JACK L. WARNER, Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Burbank, Calif.

Job Was Never More Vital, Is Ted Gamble's Appraisal

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—"No more important job has ever been assigned to us—by 'us' I mean both the industry and the Treasury—and I am sure we will be in the end proud of its accomplishment." So Ted R. Gamble told the industry through MOTION PICTURE DAILY tonight on the eve of the opening of the Fourth War Loan Drive.



Ted R. Gamble

"As national director of the Treasury's War Finance Division and a member of the motion picture industry, I take very special pride in the patriotic role the studios and stars, distributors and exhibitors have played in the war finance program," he stated. "Cooperation of the industry's War Activities Committee in the Fourth War Loan Drive will again supply us with two of the most vital factors necessary to the sale of war bonds, specifically, sales outlets and aggressive promotion.

"You have enjoyed the confidence of communities in which your theatres are located. You have maintained a close relationship with them. Therefore, your slogan for the Fourth War Loan Drive, 'A Bond for Every Seat,' will have real significance in the forthcoming drive.

"Eight thousand motion picture theatres are now qualified issuing agents for war bonds. When you all have completed the mission implied in your slogan, you will have sold approximately 11,000,000 bonds. The Treasury Department heartily appreciates the ingenuity and skill with which you are approaching this problem.

"We know that you have created four vigorous film shorts to be released during the Fourth War Loan Drive.

"We know that you have planned to make liberal use of war bond posters on your theatre billboards and in lobby displays.

"We know that war bond booths will be set up in your theatres to facilitate 'on the spot' purchase of our securities.

"In previous war loans your endeavors have always adhered to the intrinsic principles of our war finance program:

"To sell bonds to buy materials of war necessary to defeat our enemies.

"To combat the peril of inflation.

"To provide for our post-war needs.

"You have in the past created an awareness of these aims in the minds of 85,000,000 motion picture fans. I know you will continue to do so."

60 Exhibitor Leaders Head State Drives

Sixty exhibitors, all leaders in their communities and areas, are serving as state and territorial chairmen in the Fourth War Loan Drive. Many have filled like posts in earlier drives, some are new in this one.

The official list follows:

Alabama—R. H. Kennedy, Alabama Theatre, Birmingham.

Arizona—Harry Nace, Orpheum Theatre Bldg., Phoenix.

Arkansas—M. S. McCord, Little Rock.

California (Southern)—Dave Bershon, 1612 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles.

California (Northern)—Ray Cooper, Golden State Theatre Circuit, 980 Market St., San Francisco.

Colorado—R. J. Garland, Denver Theatre Bldg., Denver.

Connecticut—Harry F. Shaw, Poli Bldg., New Haven.

Delaware—Lewis S. Black, Warner Theatre, Wilmington.

Florida—J. L. Cartwright, Tampa Theatre Bldg., Tampa.

Georgia—W. K. Jenkins, Fox Theatre Bldg., Atlanta.

Idaho—Frank Larson, Idaho Falls.

Illinois—Jules J. Rubens, 175 State St., Chicago.

Indiana—Don C. Rossiter, 444 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis.

Iowa—A. H. Blank, Paramount Bldg., Des Moines.

Kansas—H. E. Jameyson, Miller Theatre, Wichita.

Kentucky—Fred J. Dolle, Fourth Ave. Amusement Co., Louisville.

Louisiana—E. V. Richards, 608 Canal St., New Orleans.

Maine—Connie Russell, Bangor.

Maryland—Frank A. Hornig, 531 N. Howard St., Baltimore.

Massachusetts—Sam Pinanski, 60 Scollay Sq., Boston.

Michigan—E. C. Beatty, 1492 National Bank Bldg., Detroit.

Minnesota—John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Co., 17 No. 6th St., Minneapolis.

Mississippi—Arthur Lehman, Jackson.

Missouri (East)—Harry C. Arthur, Fox Theatre Bldg., St. Louis.

Missouri (West)—Elmer C. Rhoden, Uptown Theatre Bldg., Kansas City.

Montana—J. A. English, Anaconda.

Nebraska—William Miskell, Orpheum Theatre Bldg., Omaha.

New Hampshire—E. J. Fahey, 1118 Elm St., Manchester.

New Jersey (Southern)—Ben Amsterdam, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.

New Jersey (Northern) — H. H.

(Continued on page 22)



4th WAR LOAN



Give

Help tear them down



with

WAR BONDS



Make it better than "a bond for every seat"..and keep America's theatres foremost in the fight!

This advertisement contributed by RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.

Remember

EVERY BOND PURCHASED HELPS BRING OUR BOYS BACK SOONER!



...AND WE WON'T FORGET
THE MARCH OF DIMES



1943 saw 94% of our product go to the war effort, but 1944 will find us backing the Fourth War Loan . . . 100% and more, if that's possible.



Walt Disney Productions

Publicity Aides Blanket Nation

Top Figures In All Zones Are Ready to Help

FIFTY-ONE well-known men and women, scattered throughout the United States, are serving as public relations state chairmen in connection with the Fourth War Loan Drive.

Who they are and where they may be reached follows:

Alabama—Richard Kennedy, Alabama Theatre Bldg., Birmingham.
Arizona—A. G. Pickett, Orpheum, Phoenix.
Arkansas—Ed Rowley, Jr., Robb & Rowley Theatres, Little Rock.
California (Southern)—Mort Goodman, Room 410, Warner Theatre Bldg., 6434 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 28.
California (Northern)—Fay S. Reeder, Fox West Coast Theatres, 988 Market Street, San Francisco 2 .
Colorado—Harold Rice, Paramount, Denver.
Connecticut—Lou Brown, Loew's Poli, New Haven.
Delaware—Edgar Doob, Loew's Aldine, Wilmington.
Florida—J. L. Cartwright, Tampa Theatre, Tampa.
Georgia—William Brady, Paramount, Atlanta, Ga.
Idaho—Nevin McCord, Ada, Boise.
Illinois—William Hollander, B. & K. Theatres, Chicago Theatre Bldg., Chicago.
Indiana—William Elder, Loew's, Indianapolis.
Iowa—Dale McFarland, Tri-States Theatre Corp., Des Moines.
Kansas—Mel Miller, Advertising Manager, Fox, Topeka.
Kentucky—Cliff Beuchel, Mary Anderson Theatre, Louisville.
Louisiana—Maurice Barr, Tudor Theatre Bldg., New Orleans.
Maine—Connie Russell, Opera House, Bangor.
Maryland—Frank Hornig, Horne, Baltimore.
Massachusetts—Harry Browning, M. & P. Theatres, 60 Scollay Sq., Boston.
Michigan—Alice Gorham, War Activities Committee, United Detroit Theatres, Stroh Bldg., Detroit.
Minnesota—Charles Winchell, Minnesota Amusement Co., 17 No. 6th St., Minneapolis.
Mississippi — Clarence Greenblatt, Paramount, Jackson.
Missouri—Les Kaufman, Fox, St. Louis.
Montana—A. M. Russell, Ellen, Bozeman.
Nebraska—Ted Emerson, Omaha Theatre Bldg., Omaha.
New Hampshire—Edward Fahey, Palace, Manchester.
New Jersey (Southern)—Joe Murdock, Stanley. Camden.
New Jersey (Northern)—Robert Paskow, 17 Academy St., Newark.
New Mexico—George Tucker, Kimo, Albuquerque.
New York (Metropolitan)—Harry Mandel, RKO Theatres, 1270 6th Ave.
New York (Upstate)—Seymour Morris, Schine Enterprises, Inc., Gloversville.
North Carolina—Roy Smart, Wilby-Kincey Service Corp., 120 E. Third St., Charlotte.
North Dakota—Mike Cooper, Fork, Grand Forks.
Ohio—Russ Bovim, Loew's Ohio, Columbus.
Oklahoma—Robert Busch, Uptown, Oklahoma City.
Oregon—M. M. Mesher, Evergreen Theatre Corp., Orpheum Theatre Bldg., Portland.
Pennsylvania (Eastern)—James Ashcraft, M-G-M, 1233 Summer St., Philadelphia.
Pennsylvania (Western)—James Totman, Warner Bros. Circuit, 2216 Clark Bldg., Pittsburgh.
South Carolina—Sam Sugge, Palmetto, Columbia.
South Dakota—Fred Larkin, State, Sioux Falls.
Tennessee—Charles Amos, Crescent Amusement, Inc., Nashville.
Texas—Robert Kelly, 300 Majestic Bldg., Dallas.
Utah—Helen Garrity, Intermountain Theatres, Capitol Theatre Bldg., Salt Lake City.
Vermont—Frank A. Vennett, Paramount, Rutland.
Virginia—George Peters, Loew's State, Richmond.
Washington, D. C.—Frank LaFalce, Warner Bros. Circuit, Earle Theatre Bldg.
Washington—Vic Gauntlett, Evergreen Theatres, 669 Skinner Theatre Bldg., Seattle.
West Virginia—Cecil Tipton, Orpheum, Huntington.
Wisconsin—Ed Hickey, Fox Wisconsin Amusement Co., Varsity Theatre Bldg., Milwaukee.
Wyoming—Jack McGee, Lincoln, Cheyenne.

Sees Success Crowning the Drive if Exhibitors Unite

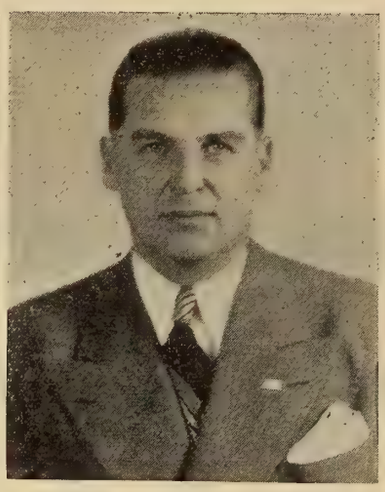
By F. H. ("Rick") RICKETSON, JR.
Vice-Chairman,
Fourth War Loan Drive

A RETURNING officer from Tarawa stated that in that historic hour when victory or defeat hung in the balance, sufficient Liberator bombers would have blasted those five-foot thick pill boxes and saved the lives of a thousand Marines.

Not a pleasant thought, but a hard fact. A thousand Marines sacrificed because we did not have block-busting bombers in that battle. It is not your fault or probably anyone's fault. But it will be our fault if the Fourth War Loan isn't over-subscribed quickly and the money isn't provided to build those Liberators by the thousands to rain their hell over the Japanese mainland.

The loss of one single American boy in his youthful prime is a major casualty that this country can ill afford if more and better equipment would have saved his life. An oversubscribed war bond campaign is the way we can assure ourselves that the fighting tools will be in the hands of our fighting men.

The Treasury Department has assigned the industry a very definite task to showmanize the compaign in each community and to concentrate on the sale of "E" bonds. We have set our own goal to sell an "E" bond for every theatre seat. Through the united effort of exhibitors everywhere, it shall be a reality.



Rick Ricketson

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Machinery for "Bond Premieres" Rolling

Machinery necessary to set in features to be shown by exhibitors on bond premiere nights is under way with circulation of necessary forms among exchange area chairmen by Ned E. Depinet, chairman of the distributors' division.

Form "A," designated as "Advance Notice of War Bond Premiere," must be filled out by exchange area chairmen as soon as each bond premiere is scheduled from now until the campaign terminates.

60 Exhibitor Leaders Head State Drives

(*Concluded from page* 16)

Lowenstein, 24 Walnut St., Newark.
New Mexico—George Tucker, Kimo Theatre, Albuquerque.
Nevada—N. Dow Thompson, T & D Enterprises, Reno.
New York (Metropolitan)—E. L. Alperson, RKO Theatres, 1270 6th Ave., New York 20.
New York (Borough of Brooklyn)—Sam Rinzler, Sub-Chairman, Randforce Amusement Co., 1515 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
New York (Borough of Queens)—Fred Schwartz, Sub-Chairman, Century Circuit, 50 Rockefeller Center, New York 20.
New York (Borough of Bronx)—Russell Emdee, Sub-Chairman, RKO Theatres, 1270 6th Ave., New York 20.
New York (Borough of Richmond)—Louis Goldberg, Sub-Chairman, RKO Theatres, 1270 6th Ave., New York 20.
New York (Borough of Manhattan)—Harry Brandt, Sub-Chairman, Brandt Theatres, 1555 Broadway, New York.
New York (Upstate) — J. Myer Schine, Gloversville.
North Carolina—H. F. Kincey, 120 E. 3rd St., Charlotte.
North Dakota—Mike Cooper, Fox Theatre, Grand Forks.
Ohio (Cleveland)—William Skirball, 808 Keith Bldg., Cleveland.
Ohio (Cincinnati)—Arthur Frudenfeld, 301 Palace Theatre Bldg., Cincinnati.
Oklahoma—C. B. Akers, 11½ No. Lee Ave., Oklahoma City.
Oregon—Mrs. J. J. Parker, Broadway Theatre, Portland.
Pennsylvania (Eastern)—Jay Emanuel, 1225 Vine St., Philadelphia.
Pennsylvania (Western)—M. A. Silver, Warner Bros. Theatres, Clark Bldg., Pittsburgh.
Rhode Island—E. M. Fay, Providence.
South Carolina—Warren Irwin, Palmetto, Columbia.
South Dakota—Fred Larkin, State, Sioux Falls.
Tennessee—Tony Sudekum, Crescent Amuse. Co., Nashville.
Texas—R. J. O'Donnell, Interstate Circuit, Majestic Theatre Bldg., Dallas.
Utah — Samuel Gillette, Strand, Tooele.
Vermont—Frank Vennett, Paramount, Rutland.
Virginia—W. F. Crockett, Bayne, Virginia Beach.
Washington, D. C.—Carter Barron, Loew's Capitol Theatre.
Washington—Frank Newman, Sr., Skinner Bldg., Seattle.
West Virginia—N. D. Dipson, Wheeling.
Wisconsin — Harold J. Fitzgerald, 1324 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee.
Wyoming—Tom Berta, Rialto, Rock Springs.

A Bond for Every Seat!

When things are looking up....



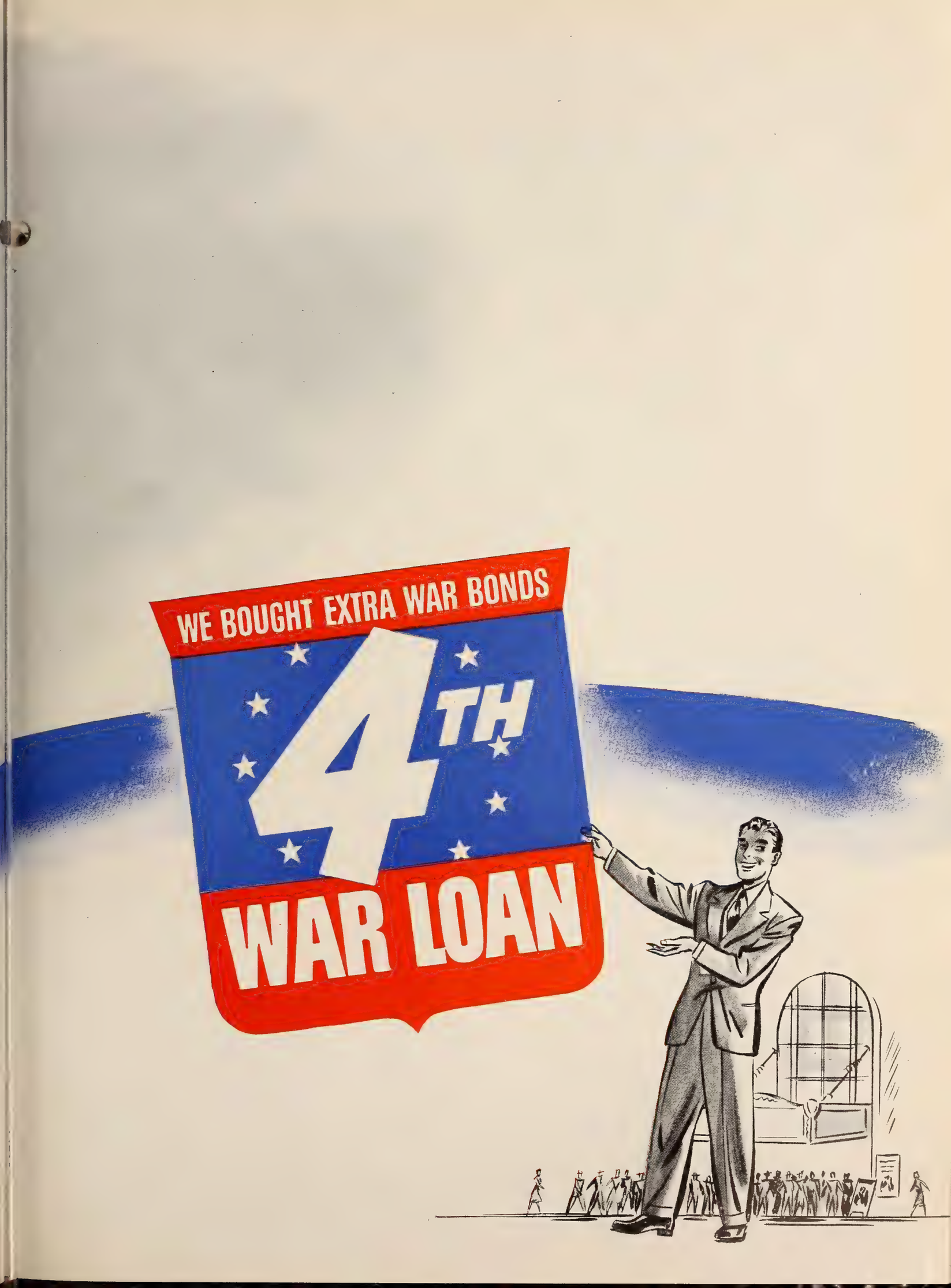
We'll never let you down....

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

We did it before...
we'll do it again
on the

4th WAR LOAN!




WE BOUGHT EXTRA WAR BONDS
4TH
WAR LOAN

A 4th WAR LOAN BOND FOR EVERY SEAT!



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

"E" Bonds, Keynote of 4th War Loan Drive

This Is Series To Be Plugged, Theatres Told

THE Treasury's War Finance Committee hopes that during the Fourth War Loan Drive Americans will buy more than $5,000,000,000 worth of "E" bonds. "The nation's 16,000-odd exhibitors can sell a good healthy chunk of that money" the War Activities Committee declares.

Charles P. Skouras' Fourth War Bond Drive Committee yesterday emphasized to theatre managers:

"The job is 'E' bonds which range in price from $18.75, with a maturity value of $25, to the $3,750 bond, which, in ten years, is worth $5,000 to a theatre patron.

"Those are the bonds you sell. Those are the bonds you can sell the best. Those are the bonds that movie-goers buy!

"Sell 'E' bonds every day in the campaign and in every way. 'E' bonds sold today are the best investment. 'E' bonds bomb Berlin! 'E' bonds buy beachheads. 'E' bonds buy bayonets. 'E' bonds make today's battle tomorrow's victory! 'E' bonds buy babies for the peacetime family. 'E' bonds buy barns for peacetime's farmer. 'E' bonds bring better business in the post-war days."

"A Bond for Every Seat"

"Concentrate on 'E' Bonds", Blank Says

DES MOINES, Jan. 13.—Exhibitors in Iowa are being urged by A. H. Blank, state chairman for the industry in the Fourth War Loan Drive, to concentrate on sale of "E" bonds and to leave the higher denominations to financial institutions and other groups.

Iowa is set to go. Approximately 90 exhibitors, exchange managers, salesmen and bookers advanced plans at a meeting at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Present was Leo F. Wolcott, president of Allied of Nebraska and Iowa, who pledged full cooperation of his membership, and D. C. Kennedy, M-G-M branch manager, who is also distributor chairman for Iowa.

The plan in this area divides the state into sections which are covered by the approximate 35 film salesmen working out of Des Moines exchanges. Each salesman is pledged to render exhibitors all possible aid in pushing the drive. This includes special attention turned toward bond premieres and the "Free Movie Day."

Exhibitors Urged To Seek Aid from Publicity Group

Exhibitors are urged to work closely with, and to seek the cooperation and assistance of, the nation-wide string of public relations chairman functioning on behalf of the industry's Fourth War Loan Drive by Seymour Peiser, national publicity chairman.

"Publicity alone will not sell bonds. But publicity, as applied to showmanship, plus initiative and imagination, will," he emphasized in a pre-campaign statement yesterday.

Therefore, his advice to the showmen of the country is this:

"Make the most of the extensive facilities available to you through the trained and expert assistance of your public relations chairman and the statewide system of local publicity directors associated with him.

"They're there to help you 'put it over'. They're there to 'beat the drums' with your message to the public; to get the ball rolling and keep it rolling across the pages of your newspapers, through your radio broadcasting channels and to take the fullest and most showmanly advantage of every medium of communication between your theatre and the public."

"Keep your publicity representative informed. Keep him up-to-date on every activity and plan. Call upon him for advice, for ideas, for planning, for immediate action!

"He is an important part of your state-wide Fourth War Loan campaign organization, so call upon him to help you 'Show the Way with Showmanship to Sell a Bond with Every Seat'."

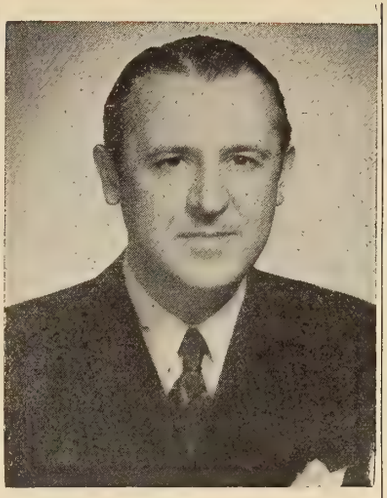
"A Bond for Every Seat"

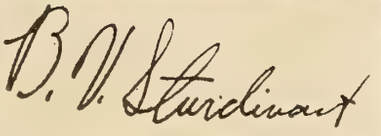
100 Make Plans At Meeting In Omaha

OMAHA, Jan. 13.—Plans for this area's industry cooperation in the Fourth War Loan Drive were laid here at a recent meeting of some 100 exhibitors, distributors and theatre managers.

The group was addressed by Frank J. Hannon, distributor chairman for the territory; William Miskell, state exhibitor chief; G. Ralph Branton, general manager of Tri-States Theatres; Len Gruenberg, RKO district manager; Allen T. Hupp, chairman of the Omaha-Douglas county War Finance Committee, and Leon J. Markham, state War Finance administrator.

Goals of a war bond for every theatre seat and of a bond premiere for every theatre were set.





Depinet, Ginsberg, Michalove Spark Sales in Industry

Ned E. Depinet, president of RKO Radio Pictures; Dan Michalove, vice-president of National Theatres, and Henry Ginsberg, general manager of the Paramount studios, are serving as a trio of chairmen of the "Within the Industry Sales" committee functioning on behalf of the Fourth War Loan Drive.

This group has these standing representatives in all exchange cities:

ALBANY—C. G. Eastman.
ATLANTA—Fred Dodson.
BOSTON—I. H. Rogovin.
BUFFALO—A. Herman.
CHARLOTTE—J. H. Dillon.
CHICAGO—Tom Gilliam.
CINCINNATI—J. J. Oulahan.
CLEVELAND—I. J. Schmertz.
DALLAS—Sol M. Sachs.
DENVER—Len Gruenberg.
DES MOINES—D. C. Kennedy.
DETROIT—Frank J. Downey.
INDIANAPOLIS—Richard Frank.
KANSAS CITY—W. E. Truog.
LOS ANGELES—Wayne Ball.
MEMPHIS—J. F. Willingham.
MILWAUKEE—J. H. Lorentz.
MINNEAPOLIS—L. J. Miller.
NEW HAVEN—Barney Pitkin.
NEW ORLEANS—James Brient.
NEW YORK—Robert Wolff.
OKLAHOMA CITY—C. H. Weaver.
OMAHA—F. J. Hannon.
PHILADELPHIA—Robert Lynch.
PITTSBURGH—John J. Maloney.
PORTLAND, ORE.—Lewis Amacher.
ST. LOUIS—Lester J. Bona.
SALT LAKE CITY—Charles J. Walker.
SAN FRANCISCO—Al Laurice.
SEATTLE—E. A. Lamb.
WASHINGTON—Robert Smeltzer.

Says Gauntlet Is Down, But Results Sure

By B. V. STURDIVANT
Campaign Director, Fourth War Loan Drive

DURING the past 20 years, civilization has observed the motion picture industry develop swiftly from a pygmy of Lilliputian proportions into a giant of Gargantuan dimensions.

There are those who diligently seek an opportunity to charge that the showmen of America have failed to keep abreast in growth with this child of their creation; that the thriving youngster has become such a potent factor of influence on society that new masters should be found.

No one will deny its influence . . . its power . . . its potential value as a cultural force in delineating the pattern of present and future lives.

There is no challenging the fact that history for the first time has presented the world with a new medium which embraces art, music, literature and science . . . all in one form of entertainment which has been universally accepted.

The responsibility of every person directly or even remotely connected with motion pictures is great; not only to produce, distribute and exhibit this new medium but to occupy with wise understanding and Spartan vigor that high position on the pedestal of society to which they have been projected.

In appealing to the industry for assistance in the Fourth War Loan campaign, Secretary Morgenthau and other high Governmental officials accord recognition to the powerful influence we exert.

"'A Bond for Every Seat' is a high goal for which to shoot," he says. And then adds, "The movies will do their part. They always have."

The gauntlet is down. Such confidence connot be treated lightly.

Results in the Fourth War Loan campaign will mean much in determining whether we have attained the stature of this medium which we control; whether we are capable of occupying that high position which has been entrusted to us.

Results will tell the story!

"A Bond for Every Seat"

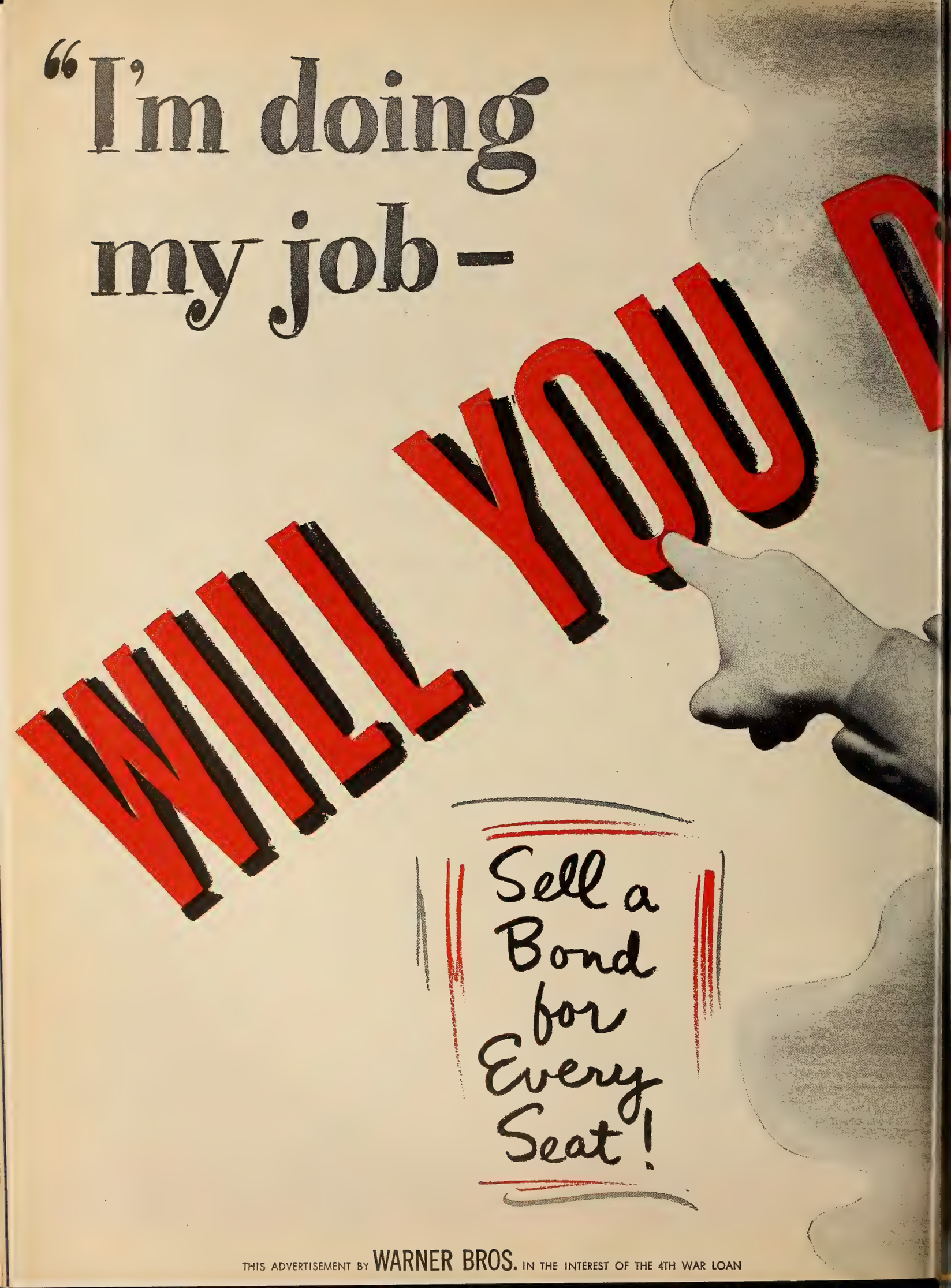
Texas Makes It Local

DALLAS, Jan. 13.—The slogans of the Fourth War Loan Drive committee in Texas are "Sell a Bond for Every Seat" and "Back Up Our Fighting Texans on Every Battlefront." These slogans have been sent to all Texas exhibitors by R. J. O'Donnell, state chairman. Details of the Texas campaign are in the hands of every showman.

Fourth War Loan Drive

"I'm doing my job—

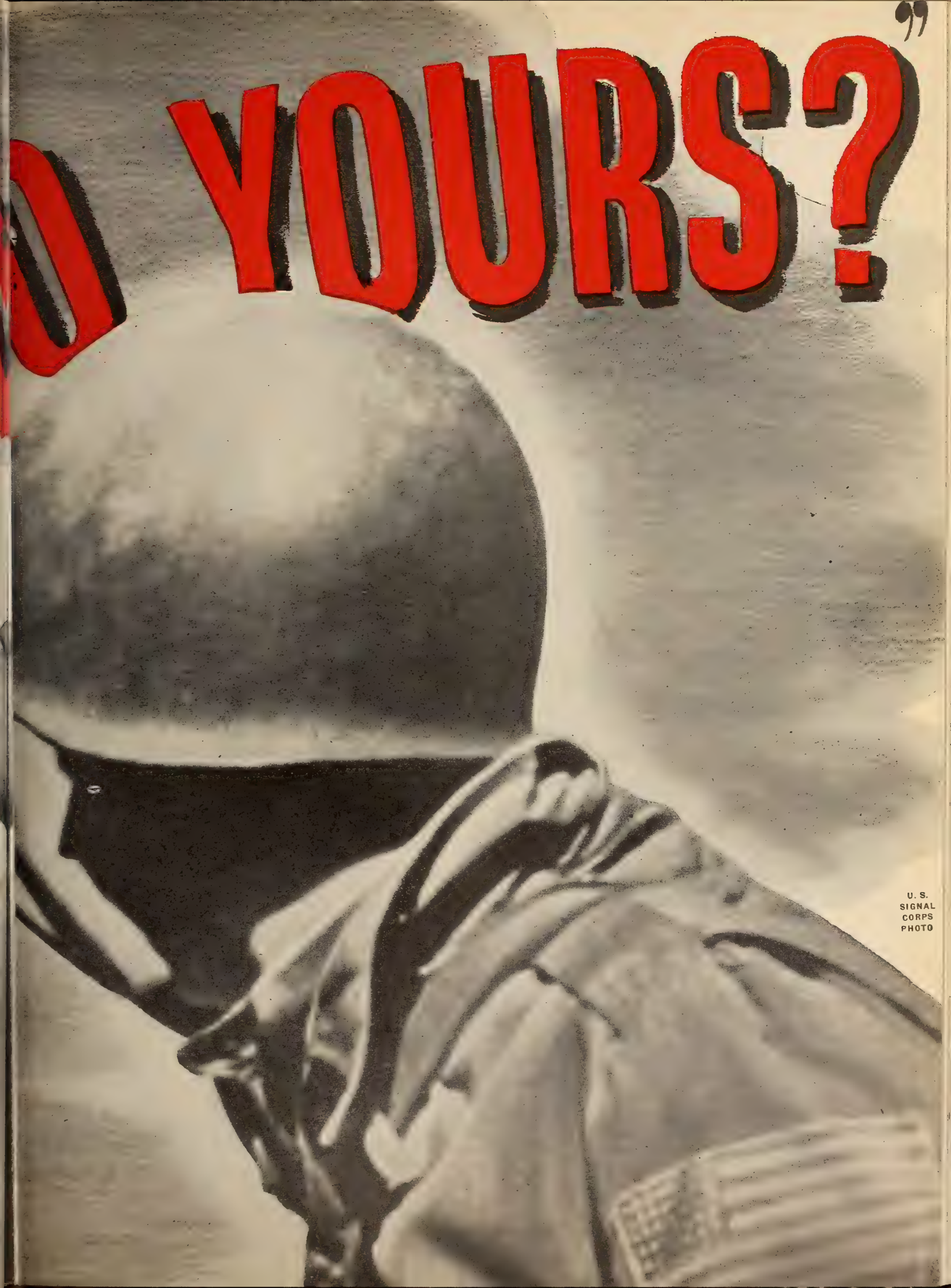
WILL YOU D



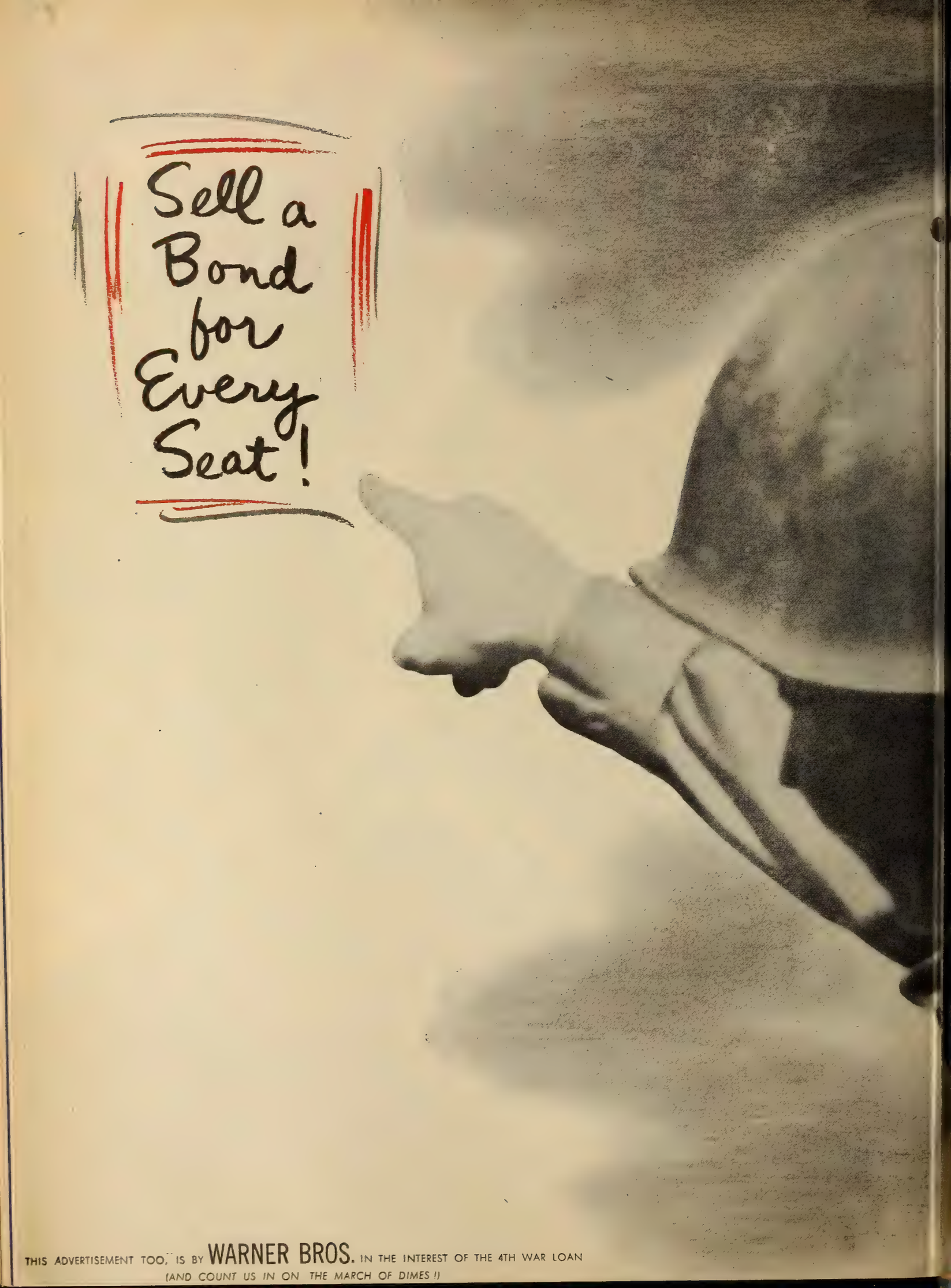
Sell a Bond for Every Seat!

THIS ADVERTISEMENT BY WARNER BROS. IN THE INTEREST OF THE 4TH WAR LOAN

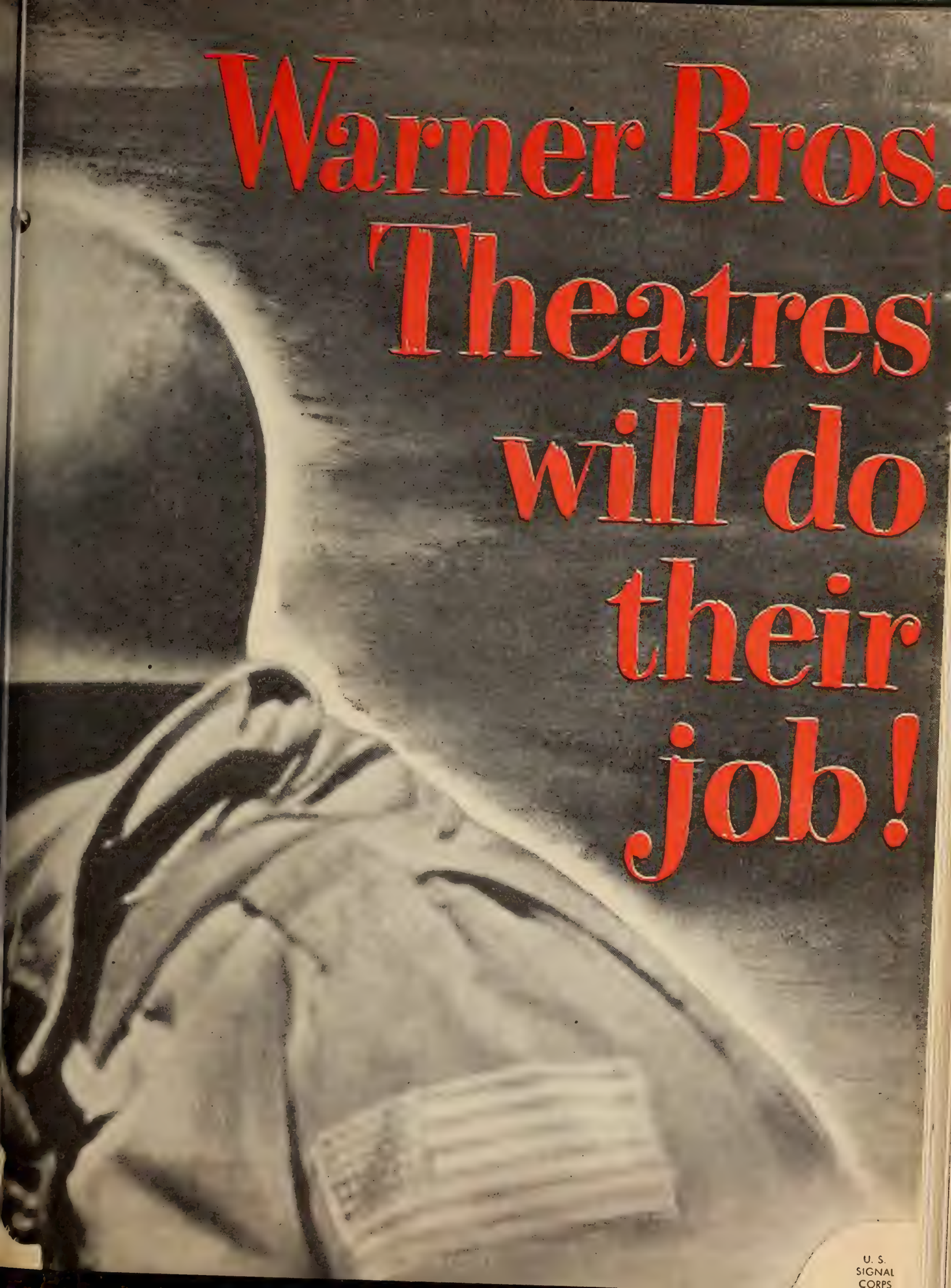
O YOURS?"



U. S.
SIGNAL
CORPS
PHOTO



THIS ADVERTISEMENT TOO, IS BY WARNER BROS. IN THE INTEREST OF THE 4TH WAR LOAN
(AND COUNT US IN ON THE MARCH OF DIMES !)


Warner Bros.
Theatres
will do
their
job!
U. S.
SIGNAL
CORPS

Enterprising Showmen Step Out on Own

Southern Ohio Launches With A Soldier Show

CINCINNATI, Jan. 13.—An ambitious high key bond selling program, geared for maximum results through visual appeal to patriotic duty, has been developed for the Southern Ohio district by Col. Arthur Frudenfeld, RKO division manager here, who is WAC chairman for the Cincinnati exchange territory and chairman of the Fourth War Loan Drive for Southern Ohio.

Permitting the campaign to proceed on its own momentum for approximately two weeks with the bond premieres and other national campaign plans, the Frudenfeld plan will be inaugurated around Feb. 1, with an all-soldier, bond-admission stage show with a cast of 60 former stage performers now in the Air Service Command, recruited under direction of commanding officers from all sections of the country. It is now in rehearsal at Patterson Field, Dayton, O., where the show was whipped together by Capts. Joe Goetz and Clay Rambeau, former local theatre men, and Capt. Gene Rich, erstwhile exploiteer of the M-G-M Chicago branch.

Will Feature Flying Band

The show will feature the famous Flying Band, around which the acts will be presented, and will be given in connection with a feature picture for one night in Cincinnati, Hamilton, Middletown, Dayton, Springfield and Columbus. Thorough promotion coverage via various media will be handled by E. V. Dinerman, RKO division director of advertising and publicity here.

The Southern Ohio area served by the Cincinnati exchanges represents approximately 216,000 seats, and the quota of "A Bond for Every Seat" will not only be met, but exceeded, Frudenfeld believes.

Frudenfeld thus far has appointed the following partial list of representative theatre men as regional chairmen to handle the details in their respective counties: Hamilton County, Maurice White, Cincinnati; Butler County, Harry David, Cincinnati; Montgomery County, William Clark, Dayton; Miami County, C. F. Pfister, Troy; Franklin County, Max Stearn, Columbus; Muskingum County, John Woodward, Zanesville; Fairfield County, Leo Kessel, Lancaster; Washington County, Joe Scanlon, Marietta, and Champaign County, James Chakeres, Springfield. In Cincinnati, admission bonds will be sold from the "Bond Pier," a scaled replica of a lighthouse pier erected several months ago on Fountain Square, adjacent to the RKO Albee for sale of bonds, registration of blood donors and other war activities.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Drive Chiefs —*on the Industry's War Loan Firing Line*



SEYMOUR PEISER
Advertising, Publicity Director



FRED STEIN
Assistant Campaign Director



ANDY KRAPPMAN
Assistant Campaign Director



NED E. DEPINET
Chairman, Distributors' Committee



DAN MICHALOVE
"Within the Industry" Sales



HENRY GINSBERG
"Within the Industry" Sales



GEO. J. SCHAEFER
Director in the Field



CHAS. K. FELDMAN
Hollywood Talent Participation



CLAUDE F. LEE
Treasury Department Liaison

Joe Stark, Salesman, Points Out One Way

JOE STARK, Paramount salesman out of Kansas City, believes in war bonds. He is buying the first seat in each house on a long list assigned him in the Fourth War Loan Drive and hopes it will point a way.

Howard Jameyson, exhibitor state chairman for Kansas, flashed the word earlier in the week to Ned E. Depinet, chairman of the distributors' division. "I say swell," he wired.

So say others.

Morgenthau to Talk At Cincinnati Rally

CINCINNATI, Jan. 13. — Secretary Morgenthau will address a "kickoff" dinner for war bond workers at the Netherland Plaza here the night of Jan. 19. His address, broadcast over a nationwide hookup, will be his most important of the campaign, according to word received from Treasury officials by Phil J. Trounstine, state chairman of the War Finance Committee. He also said that Morgenthau had accepted the committee's invitation to come to Ohio to help inaugurate the Fourth War Loan in recognition of Ohio having made the best showing of any industrial state in the country during the last bond drive.

All-Military Show, Colorado Highlight

DENVER, Jan. 13.—An all-military show in as many cities and towns as wartime transportation allows, will be the highlight of the bond drive in Colorado. The display, arranged by the state's War Finance Committee of which Clarence H. Adams is chairman, naturally will tie in with extensive bond-selling plans made by theatres.

Here are the steps organized:

A quota has been set for all business firms based upon the amount they already are investing by way of the payroll plan, plus purchase of a $100 bond for each employe.

The schools are setting up a treasure hunt, the purpose being to convert into bonds the more than 1,000,000 unfilled stamp books in the hands of the public.

A state-wide retail program has been organized on the basis of each employe selling $200 in bonds and stamps in addition to whatever his own purchases may be.

Women will wage a house-to-house canvass and also a farm-to-farm canvass. It is estimated there are over 500,000 likely candidates for bonds throughout the state.

The all-military show will display cavalcades of heroes, equipment and other paraphernalia of war and is being planned on as sweeping a scale as war time transportation will allow.

Northwest Tries Postcard Wrinkle

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 13.—A daily postcard suggestion, designed to run well into the campaign period, is one of the promotion wrinkles established for theatres' Fourth War Loan Drive in the Minneapolis territory.

On each mailing day, a postcard is sent, with an appropriate suggestion for promotion of war bond sales, to each theatre in the territory. Mailing began Jan. 10, when it was suggested ot managers that they get busy immediately on larger war bond purchasers, those who do a year's buying at once.

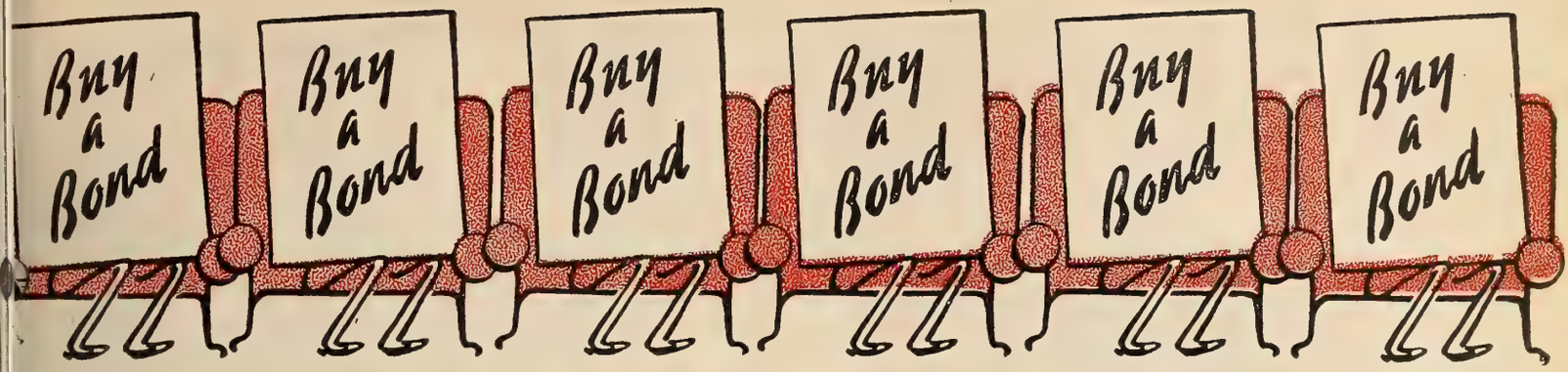
Resulting sales, even if consummated before the official opening of the drive, would count on the "Bond for Every Seat" tally sheet.

Another card suggested a morning matinee for farmers only, with bond sales as admissions. Similar suggestions will be sent out in a total of 24 mailings scheduled. Included among these will be several culled from original ideas tried out by the managers themselves.

The most extensive war bond premiere schedule yet attended is indicated by early reports from film salesmen who have been devoting themselves to arranging this type of feature through the territory.

Charles W. Winchell is in charge of promotion for the drive, assisted by Everett Seibel, Walter Hoffman, Arthur Catlin and Norman Pyle.

A Bond for Every Seat!



Eleven Million Five Hundred Thousand

THE GOAL OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

"A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT"

A Shield displayed by

*11,500,000

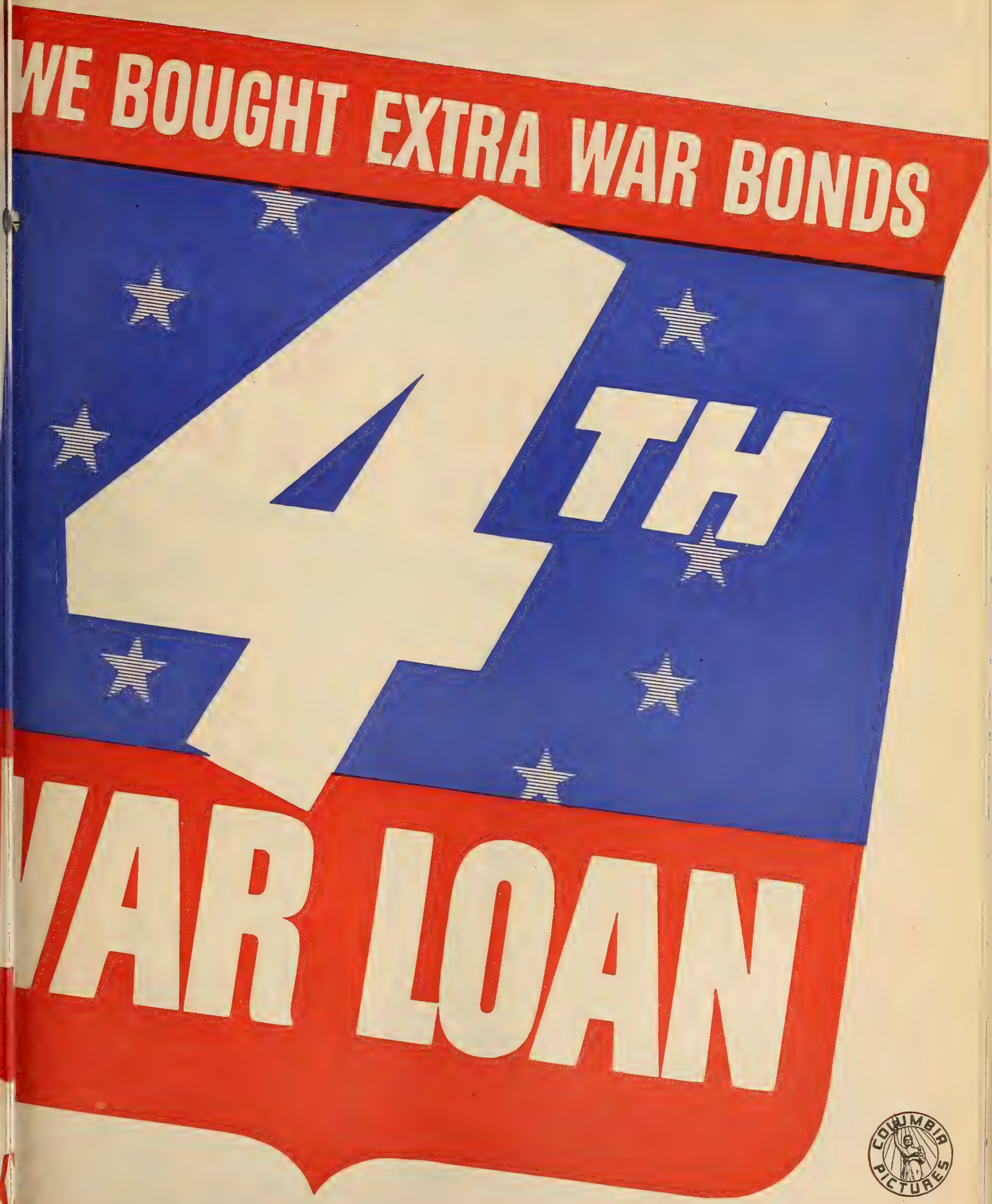
Movie Theatre Goers

* Approximate number of theatre seats in the United States



LET'S ALL BACK THE ATTACK

And We Won't Forget The March Of Dimes



FREE TO BOND BUYERS

The Treasury's War Finance Committee is printing millions of duplicates of these shields, in red, white and blue, which will be given to bond buyers. You can get all you want from your local War Finance Committee man . . . Get 'em. Your patrons will want 'em!

COLUMBIA PICTURES

This space contributed by Columbia Pictures Corp.

"The Motion Picture Theatre Bond Booths... *Cash Registers of the War*" HELD OVER

THEODORE GAMBLE
National Director, War Finance Committee



This space contributed by Columbia Pictures Corp.

"Honored Hundred" Contest Begins to Build

Honor Places To Winners In The 5th Drive

"BEHEMOTHS OF BONDMANSHIP" is the title to be won by those on hundred theatre operators who will take top honors for selling "A Bond for Every Seat." The *"Honored Hundred"* idea is brand new in the industry's participation in war loan activities. It is the No. 1 promotion in exhibition for the Fourth War Loan Drive.

The *"Honored Hundred"* will take posts of honor as members of the Executive Advisory Committee for the next War Loan.

In the *"Honored Hundred"* contest, designed by Treasury and War Activities Committee heads to bring to the surface the best of America's bond-bartering "blitzkriegers," the winners will be given an all-expense trip to Washington, plus honor-scrolls, engraved medallions, letters from Secretary Morgenthau, together with Treasury "E" buttons for each of their theatre staff members. Formal ceremonies in each state, enhanced by broadcasts, fan-fare and officialdom will highlight the presentation of awards.

The only basis for winning is by selling the greatest number of "E" bonds in ratio to the number of seats in a theatre.

Yesterday, the War Activities' Fourth War Loan Drive headquarters in New York said, "With the cross-roads cinema competing on a fair-and-square basis with the plush palaces of the population points, already interest is steaming as entry blanks pile into the War Activities Committee headquarters in New York."

To clarify in the mind of any theatre manager questions or misunderstandings which may be puzzling him, a special brochure is being mailed which, among other information, contains a question-and-answer column as well as complete listing of the rules and regulations governing the contest and the awards.

Entry blanks for the competition already have been set to all theatres.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

To Stress 'Free Movie Day'

CHICAGO, Jan. 13.—Windy City exhibitors intend going in for the Free Movie Day plan on a large scale.

A bond bought during the Fourth War Loan Drive will serve as a pass at more than 300 of Chicago's 350 theatres as the second week of the drive gets under way on Jan. 25.

Here Are The Rules Governing Selection of "Honored Hundred"

1. **Any manager of a motion picture theatre in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii is eligible to compete in the *"Honored Hundred"* Contest.**
2. **One winner will be named from each state, one from the District of Columbia, one from Alaska, and one from Hawaii.***
3. **Winners will be determined by computing the percentage of "E" bonds sold in ratio to the number of seats.**
4. **No contestant may win two awards.**
5. **Only bond-sales made from midnight Jan. 1 to midnight Feb. 29 will count in the contest.**
6. **No bond-sales will be recognized in the contest unless supported by Treasury Department bond-application blanks.**
7. **A theatre need not be an issuing agent in order to enter the contest. If the application is taken by the theatre, the bond may be issued anywhere.**
8. **Contestants will retain the perforated stub-portion of the Treasury Department bond application blank until the close of the 4th War Loan. These are then to be sent to the state WAC chairman, to reach him not later than March 1 for checking of results. (Theatres that have qualified as issuing agents may attest their own application.)**
9. **Ten winners will be named from the entire country from cities of less than 5,000 population; ten will be named from cities between 5,000 and 10,000 population; ten from cities between 10,000 and 25,000 population; ten from cities between 25,000 and 100,000 and ten from cities of over 100,000 population.**

State winners will be determined by state chairman and state War Finance Chairman, assisted by certified public accountants. Names will be sent to the War Activities Committee, New York, for final audit as well as selection of winners on the population basis. Decision of the official "Honored Hundred" contest judges will be final.

** 101 winners in all.*

Virginia Men Accept Quota Of 3 Million

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 13.—Showmen in this state accept the "E" bond quota of $3,090,625 in maturity value for the Fourth War Loan Drive. That makes it a $25 a seat for 123,625 seats. The acceptance, moreover, is part of a 10 point plan to be applied statewide. This is the rest of the program:

1.—Every city and town agreed to hold a meeting of all theatre representatives together with retailers, radio, newspaper and local War Finance Committee members during the week of Jan. 3.

2.—Every theatre operator who had not previously done so to sign WAC over-all pledge.

3.—Every theatre to immediately become a bond issuing agent or a representative of a bond issuing agent.

4.—Every theatre to install bond booth, decorate lobby, foyer, front, etc., with Fourth War Loan material, to use and distribute Fourth War Loan 4 by 5 in. stickers.

5.—At least one bond premiere in each town and city; that the state war bond premiere quota be set at 30.

6.—Every theatre to hold Free Movie Day.

7.—At least one home talent bond show in each town or city where feasible.

8.—Special days and special events throughout the entire drive.

9.—Request each Virginia circuit head to appoint one person from his organization to tour the circuit's theatres, setting up a Fourth War Loan Drive campaign personally with each individual manager.

And here is how George W. Peters, state publicity chairman, views the task:

"We, who use publicity every day in whetting the appetite of the public for our attractions and arousing their interest in our stars, are especially well equipped to do the same thing for war bonds in this drive. It is a creative effort that should challenge and delight every showman in the country. The wholehearted satisfaction of knowing that a job has been well done and an attraction properly exploited will be known to every showman who has successfully 'sold' to the public the special war bond premieres and events."

William F. Crockett of Virginia Beach is exhibitor state chairman. The entire state has been zoned and assignments handed out.

Blueprint On How to Start The Campaign

MOBILIZE!, ORGANIZE!, ACCESSORIZE!, TRAILERIZE!, MAGNETIZE!, HYPNOTIZE!

That's the message of showmen who have written a suggested campaign for exhibitors to use to start their Fourth War Loan Drive. Some of the best promotional men in the industry met repeatedly to arrive at a program for exhibitors to start individual campaigns of showmanship for the Drive. They suggest:

Mobilize!

Contact local War Finance Committe head. Make sure that he is familiar with *every* phase of the industry campaign. Ask him to call a meeting of fellow exhibitors, retail merchants, the press, radio, advertising men, civic leaders.

★

Organize!

Lay out a campaign *completely* as far in advance as possible. Arrange a schedule so that activity is concentrated, yet sustained. Don't slow down once started. Follow through on every stunt, but first, make sure that it will sell "E" bonds.

★

Accessorize!

The soundest industry minds have gotten together to plan accessories which will help carry the message to the public. They will be available below cost. Order through National Screen. In addition, the Treasury Department will mail two free posters, a 20x28 and a 28x40. In addition to this, enlist the Rembrandts of your own art department. (*See page* 45.)

★

Trailerize!

Three free "Sock" trailers will be available from all National Screen Service Exchanges. Plus a regular WAC "Film Bulletin" as an "advance."

★

Magnetize!

Attract attention to each theatre. Dress up lobby and marquee. Use banners and flags. Now that the blackouts, brownouts and dimouts are a thing of the past, make the theatre the brightest spot in town. Let the public know that something is going on. More specific, let the public know the Fourth War Loan is going on.

★

Hypnotize!

Direct everything toward that bond booth in the lobby. Redecorate it. Populate it with personable people. The bond booth is the essential.



"MY HAT'S IN THE RING!
(call on me for anything!)"



A

B C



FOR EVERY SEAT!

LOEW'S THEATRES • METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES
(And we'll be marching in the MARCH OF DIMES, *too!)*

Kickoff Plan for 'Bond-Per-Seat' Campaign

Ties Up With Sales to Honor Service Men

KEYNOTE of the industry's participation in the Fourth War Loan Drive is the "A Bond for Every Seat" campaign. Bond buyers are being asked to buy an extra bond during the campaign and enter it in the name of a service man or woman in seating charts, blown up and displayed in the lobby of the theatre.

As a guide for showmen, the campaign committee outlines the following high points of a kick-off plan.

Advance Steps

Blow up the seating arrangement of your theatre floor plan. Place it in the lobby with copy explaining that each seat will be "sold" with the purchase of an "E" bond .(*See photograph of sample seat chart on right*)

Urge your patrons to "buy" seats in honor of some service man or woman with the individual's name then painted on the seat chart.

Blank out sections of the chart as the seats are sold, thereby providing a unique visual "thermometer" or graph registering the progress of your campaign.

After your patron purchases a bond for his service man, sell him another —for himself—and place his name on another chart.

Sell the Idea First to Your Own Staff: Call a meeting and explain the entire idea to your own employes. Let them explain it to their friends and relatives. Also; and more important, they will be able to explain it to your patrons who inquire. Establish a quota for your staff. Keep a chart of the bonds they buy. It will be fine institutional advertising for your theatre to have a news story announcing that your own theatre staff is 100 per cent sold.

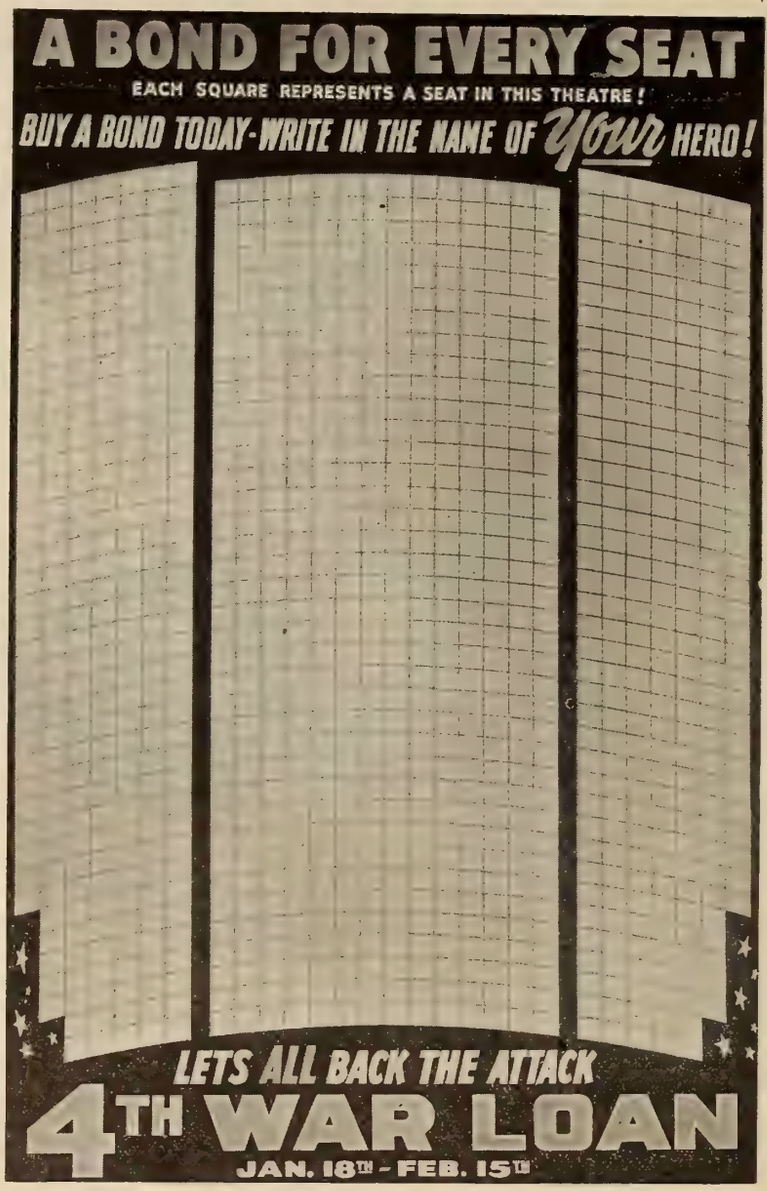
Pre-Sell Campaign in Lobby and on Screen: Don't let a single patron leave your theatre without having received at least four impressions of your message: (1) lobby cutout, (2) a lobby banner, (3) arm bands for your ushers, (4) the trailers on the screen, (5) a cutout in the rest rooms and lounges. Don't overlook a bet.

Current Steps

Hero Salute: A ceremony in honor of some service man with the bond purchase made in his name. His name is then painted on the seat chart, with photographs recording the ceremony for the press and placed in the lobby.

Mat Cutout Projected on Screen: Flash this on the screen during the running of your feature: "Let's All Back the Attack". Fill Your Seat with a Bond. Fourth War Loan. Now". This will not interfere with the patron's enjoyment and at the same time will provide a constant subconscious reminder.

How to Use the Seat Chart



Size of the seating chart enlargement used in the bond drive must be determined by space limitations. Ernest Emerling, assistant director of advertising and publicity of the Loew circuit, suggests a 40 by 60 for smaller lobbies, but an enlargement approximating a six-sheet if space allows. Some of the larger houses are planning 24-sheet displays along general lines illustrated above although variances are inevitable, dependent upon individual approach.

On larger displays, the name of the service man or woman for whom the bond is purchased may be written into a square. Emerling suggests smaller charts be filled in with water color or gummed stickers.

Showmen generally regard the seat chart blowup for lobby display as one of the best showmanship ideas of the campaign. To dramatize it, the plan provides for a nation-wide introduction of the charts from theatre stages as part of the "kickoff" night celebrations.

Outline Tells How Exhibitor Can Get Going

Opening Day: Have the mayor of your city on the stage to buy the first seat. Take pictures of him in front of your lobby seat chart.

Sidewalk Broadcast: Contact your local radio station and speak with the special events manager about the possibility of staging a regularly established radio quiz program, from your theatre. Have it either in the lobby, on the sidewalk or from the stage. Here the "first" seat can be sold with the result that your theatre gets widespread publicity on the plan.

Sidewalk Ballyhoo: Dress a character in costume and march him back and forth in front of your theatre. A town crier is always good. Have him wear a sandwich sign and ringing a bell.

Stir Up a Bond "Brawl": Pit the rotary club against the Kiwanis. Get a merchant to add to the competition by offering a prize. Have the losers wait tables and serve a dinner (rationed style, of course). If you can swing it, have the tables set on saw horses in front of the theatre and have the losers wear waiter's outfits. This will attract plenty of attention. Get photographs and stories in the newspapers.

Whirlwind Finish

Have arc lights in front of your theatre and arrange a preview showing of your next attraction. Have your Legion drum and bugle corps, or whatever other standby music makers you have up your sleeve for special events. Call on the mayor once more. Have him hang up a symbolical S.R.O. sign to indicate the house is sold out and to prove that his constituents are solidly behind the fighting men. Be sure and have the total amount of bonds sold visible in the sign.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Baldridge Handling Virginia Campaign

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 13.—The Fourth War Loan Drive in Virginia's 226 theatres will proceed under Tom Baldridge as drive director. William F. Crockett, state chairman, has named him to the post.

Baldridge is an M-G-M exploiteer, has handled the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival and is a former president of the Virginia State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The state's 226 theatres are being divided into 14 zones. Each will have an exhibitor or a film salesman in charge.



Urge One-Day Drive If Bond Sales Slow Up

Committee Has 50 Ways Which Define Course

THE campaign committee of the Fourth War Loan Drive calls upon exhibitors to put on a special one-day campaign any time during the drive, Jan. 18 to Feb. 15. This idea, designed to give the sale the kick it needs when it starts lagging, was first tried out in San Luis Obispo, Cal., a city of 12,000, which raised $1,080,000.

The plan recognizes that the theatre manager and his staff cannot handle his city or district unassisted. It calls for a community-wide organization to be formed now and to report progress at the end of the first week at a special meeting.

And Here Are the 50

To put over the one-day, all-out drive 50 publicity and sales stunts are suggested, as follows:

1.—Contact local War Finance Committeeman. Throughout the campaign channel all information as to the progress of the drive through his office.

2.—Call general meeting of all civic heads, club chiefs, newspaper editors, radio and billboard men, merchant heads, clergy, school principals, military officers, theatre men, air raid wardens, police, boy scouts, public speakers, industrial plant heads, election board members, women's auxiliaries, bankers, Victory House heads, union leaders, service clubs, department store and merchant window dressers and advertising managers, transportation men, etc. Send your invitation to the list of invitees in the form of a telegram signed by the War Finance Committee.

3.—At first meeting a good speaker outlines the plan, and generates enthusiasm. The procedure of the meeting is as follows:

An executive committee is selected. This group names sub-committee heads and members.

A goal or quota for the drive is set.

The executive committee formulates ideas and plans and assigns each task to a definite group head and members. A typewritten list of the names of the working members and the duties assigned to them is given every member present. At the second and subsequent meetings this list of members and their assignments are checked on by the executive committee chairman and each member gives his report on progress.

The organization set-up of the steering committee is as follows

Organizational Sales

To promote sales and sales campaigns within organizations and clubs.

Schools

To promote sales and sales campaigns within the schools with student and teacher participation. Announce that preview tickets will be given to all those aiding the drive as awards.

Retail Merchants

Merchants are asked to furnish merchandise prizes for bond auctions.

Merchants ask their employees to pledge to buy an extra bond, and to sell bonds to four other individuals. Preview tickets may be given as awards.

Merchants to place posters and other advertising accessories in their places of business.

4.—Bond Issuing Agents

To obtain bond writers for various events.

To coordinate the activities of issuing agents.

5.—Publicity and Public Relations

Newspaper contacts.

Radio broadcasts.

Billboards, sniping, window cards.

Screen trailers in theatres.

Street parades and outdoor events publicity.

Copy for "minute men" speakers, department store advertising men, etc.

Heralds, throwaways and small printing of various sorts.

Street banners across streets.

Merchant cooperative ads, double trucks, special sections, etc.

Proclamations by Governor, Mayor, etc.

Printing of bond premiere applications for distribution at theatres, etc.

One or two line slug mentions of the drive in all merchants' advertising.

Miscellaneous advertising.

Compiling sales reports.

Reporting to Treasury Department, War Savings Staff.

6.—Theatres

Bond purchasers' premiere.

Bond sellers' appreciation preview.

Special cartoon show for school children bond sellers.

Bond auctions.

Assist on any bond selling activity in connection with actual issue of bonds.

Place bond selling booth in lobby.

Screen trailers, lobby advertising, billboards, radio, house program, newspapers and other cooperation with general publicity and the regular theatre advertising media.

7.—Residential solicitation

Through air raid wardens.

Through Citizens Service Corp.

100 Per Cent Block group prize and solicitation. Under this plan blocks which subscribe 100 per cent get free admission to premieres and newspaper publicity.

Boy scout and school children solicitation.

By other volunteers. Preview tickets may be given as awards. Election boards, Red Cross Drive and other personnel familiar with the neighborhood perhaps can be enlisted.

8.—Weather Permitting

Military parades; tank rides.

Street decorations and posters.

Outside bond auctions.

Police and scout assistance.

Floats entered by organizations, schools, communities, business firms in parade.

Mobile victory house to visit factories, etc.

Bond thermometer.

Miscellaneous outdoor events.

9.—Business House solicitation

By service club committee.

By other volunteers. This includes industries outside business district and public employees.

10.—Service (Scouts and others).

Campaign Managers Suggest Six Aids for "Bond Premiere" Shows

BOTH THE UNITED STATES TREASURY and the Fourth War Loan committee agree the special "bond premieres" at theatres are among the biggest 'money-makers' for Uncle Sam and are among the industry's greatest 'contributitons' to war bond drives. Here's how to stage a 'bond premiere':

FIRST: **Get the local War Finance Committee to appoint a special working committee to handle the sale of "E" bonds and allocation of seats for "E" bonds. A sample scale: a $25 "E" bond for a balcony seat, ranging upward to a $1,000 "E" bond for the orchestra, with special loge seats up to $5,000, depending upon the size of the town and the house. A set of special reserved seat tickets should be printed, carrying the denominations of the "E" bonds purchased.**

SECOND: **Personally visit or telephone important people through the committee appointed at the general meeting of a city-wide staff. Committee members should impress upon prospective buyers that the only way seats for the opening night can be obtained is by buying "E" bonds. *The tickets should be distributed from one source — preferably at the local headquarters of the War Finance staff.***

THIRD: **Dress up bond booth. Induce merchants and others around town to put up booths. At these booths have uniformed attendants, AWVS, American Legion, Civilian Defense Volunteer Organizations, etc. Entire staff, including cashier and whoever answers the telephone, should be completely informed as to details of the campaign in order to answer all questions, and to direct people to the places where they may buy bonds.**

FOURTH: **Posters carrying the scale of prices should be placed in public places, industrial plants, country clubs, civic clubs, hotels, etc.**

FIFTH: **Release public announcements to city editors and radio news commentators, on War Finance Committee stationery, and *if possible* they should originate from committee headquarters. Send out daily stories carrying the names of the local people who are large bond buyers and list the total amount of bonds sold each day to date. Pictures of the largest bond purchasers can be sent to newspapers. Get the newspapers to assign photographers to cover the bond premiere.**

SIXTH: **Organize a staff of speakers to talk to Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and other clubs. Arrange talks at hotels and where public events take place. At all such events, arrange to have "order takers" on hand to accept bond purchase applications.**

FINALLY: **Don't paper the house. This is a Treasury Department function and the Treasury Department is not expected to give away free admissions except to actual working press.**

'Junior Commandos' Philadelphia Plan

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13. — The American Legion, through 62 posts in Philadelphia and posts throughout Pennsylvania, in coperation with the industry have organized "Junior Commando" bond salesmen as one of the important phases of the Fourth War Loan Drive in this territory. An American Legion honor medal will be presented to the boy or girl or "Junior Commando" in each Legiion post area who sells the most war bonds through a motion picture theatre in the district.

This plan, proposed by Variety Post 713 and approved by department and county commanders, will be extended to every theatre in the area.

Fourth War Loan Drive

Let's Gang Up On The Hitler Gang!



This space, which would ordinarily be used
advertise Paramount Pictures, has been donated
Paramount for the promotion of the 4th War Lo



PARAMOUNT WILL HELP SELL
"A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT"

18 Different Ways to Aid Sales

Special Events Via Merchants Held Effective

THE campaign committee handling the Fourth War Loan Drive has prepared 18 widely divergent special events to aid exhibitors in their bond campaign. The suggestions are in addition to bond premieres and Free Movie Day. Here they are, as lined up by the committee:

Bond Luncheon

Hold a luncheon, dinner or breakfast with a celebrity, war hero, stage screen or radio star as guest of honor. All invitees must buy a bond, ranging from $25 up. Those sitting nearest guest of honor buy the larger denomination "E" bonds up to $5,000. Contact all service clubs and civic organizations and invite the town's leaders. Cost of breakfast, luncheon or dinner is added to cost of bond; for example $20 buys guest an $18.75 bond and a $1.25 luncheon.

Bond Movie Day

Every person who buys a war bond receives a guest ticket to the current show. This has been done in most situations by all theatres simultaneously on a designated day during a special week. Announcements are placed on theatre screens, on displays in lobby, marquee, newspaper ads. And in many cases a tie-up with local merchant resulted in big space ads. Merchant gave theatre tickets to all bond purchasers on certain day.

Flowers Fight

War stamps become bonds, too! Effect tie-up with florist, who can make up war stamp corsages which can be sold through the theatre. hen select one day during the campaign for a *"Fill That Stamp Album Day."*

Bond Auctions

Theatre manager can solicit all business houses in town for various articles to be auctioned off. Enlist the services of a professional auctioneer who works from the stage of the theatre. This will produce bond sales and afford plenty of entertainment as well. Where possible, augment the auction with the appearance of stage, screen, radio, or war-hero personalities. Have photographers from local newspapers present.

"Choose Miss Victory"

The popularity contest with the bond twist. Set this up so that patrons cast votes for their favorites by buying "E" bonds. A $25 bond counts 10 votes, a $50 bond 20 votes, and so on, right up to the $5,000. *Note*: This must be handled with dignity; no bathing suits.

Local War Exhibit

Stage an exhibit of local war industries showing finished products from the various plants engaged in the war effort. The finished products could be shown in whole or in part, with cost tags attached explaining the relation of cost to purchases of war bonds of various denominations. Get newspapers, radio and local merchants to help publicize.

Post Premiere

Have a bond premiere at nearby Army Post. The commanding officer will be glad to sponsor the idea. The theatre will arrange the program. The War Finance Committee and the exhibitor will sell tickets. The community goes to the army post for a premiere. It's a new twist. It's been tried. The newspapers, radio and the public like it!

Pictures of Buyers

Arrange with a local still photographer to take photographs of all bond buyers. If radio, screen or stage star, or a war-hero is present in the city, get them to pose with the bond buyers and then autograph the stills. Or make up life-size blowup of the star of the current feature and invite bond buyers to pose alongside for "tintypes."

Hook and Ladder

A twist, good for publicity and sales, is to park the fire department's hook-and-ladder in front of the theatre, with the ladder extending up toward the sky. For every bond sold at the theatre, fireman goes up one rung of the ladder.

"Take 'em for a Ride"

This has proved to be a popular bond-selling stunt. With cooperation of the army, offer rides in a tank or a jeep to all those who buy a bond. For an added inducement to the ride put any available radio, stage or screen notable, or war hero, on the tank and take photographs of the bond buyers who take a tank ride with the celebrity.

Bond Checkers

Find the town's two best checker players, let each dig up his own human checkers, and hold the match on a big checker board laid out on your theatre stage. Let each player be backed by some local organization, admission by bonds only.

Make Records

Promote a recording device that can record messages spoken by relatives and sweethearts for boys in service. Patrons who buy a bond of substantial size are given a record, made by themselves in the lobby booth, which they can mail to their relative in the armed service.

There's a "best corner" in every community and that corner is generally occupied by a leading department store. Make a tieup with that store in which the theatre will furnish the talent and the store its best window overlooking that best corner. A show and bond rally for 30 minutes six days a week during the campaign. The AWVS or the Junior League or some group will act as sales people. It is better if a stage can be built right out over the sidewalk at second floor height. Introduce novelties. Secure a big bell, a replica of the Liberty Bell. Let it ring out every time a sale has been made.

Equip Service Men

A soldier, marine or sailor appears on the stage, dressed only in shorts. Auctioneering type of appeal is made to audience by an emcee. Fighting man is clothed, one garment at a time, at so much a garment on a bidding basis. In other words, emcee takes highest bid. Stunt is carried all the way through to full fighting pack, including gun, cartridge belt, etc. Emcee calls off actual cost of each piece of clothing and equipment, raises it and "sells" to the highest bidder.

Swingshift Premiere

Hold a gala premiere of a feature picture for war plant workers, either in daytime or at night, in the small hours of morning, so as to catch the swingshift war workers. If possible, get stage, screen or radio stars to be present at the event. Admission is by war bond, of course.

Get swingshift to sponsor premiere! The men in war plants have plenty of relatives in the service. Turn over the premiere to a specific plant, with the responsibility for selling bonds squarely up to them. They'll come through!

Junior Commandos

Under this plan children are enrolled to secure bond purchases from their elders. Signed applications for bonds net the children tickets to free theatre shows. Philadelphia reported $200,000 sales in one day from that source. It was then taken up around the country and has gone over big everywhere. Give winners cartoon show.

Bonds Pay Bills

This is a stunt that many exhibitors have reported and it worked for them! Pay as many bills as possible during a single week by giving war bonds, issued through the theatre. Try it! If it works, the stunt will fill plenty of seats in the "Bond for Every Seat" chart.

Name Street

Through executive order of the mayor or city council, christen the thoroughfare your theatre is on "Bond Drive." Appropriate ceremonies should include an auction, or sale of bonds. Incorporate your theatre's campaign to "sell a seat" into the activities.

"Hang Hitler"

Get a dummy of Adolf and rig up a noose. With each bond sold, you lift Hitler a foot higher. Object: "How high are we going to hang Hitler?" It's up to your patrons to determine.

The Press Aids Bond Showmanship

"ONE of the greatest direct appeals to the American is the editorial and feature pages of the local newspapers," reminds the Fourth War Loan Drive Committee, adding: "The editor is in a sense leader of his flock—his words are those of an oracle."

All of which reminds theatre managers that their local newspaper editor is solidly backing up the Fourth War Loan.

"The Press Aids Showmanship" is a feature of the press book of the Fourth War Loan Drive campaign. Suggested editorials and color stories for "planting" are contained therein.

Harmon Says Trade Press 'Lights Way'

"OUR industry once again sparks the nation's 'bondfire,'" stated Francis S. Harmon, coordinator of the War Activities Committee yesterday.

"Success in selling 'A Bond for Every Seat' during the Fourth War Loan will be another dramatic demonstration of showmanship in action to add to that 'Billion in September,' 'The Stars Over America,' the 'Bond Cavalcade' and 'War Heroes Airmadas' which did so much to push previous war financing campaigns over the top.

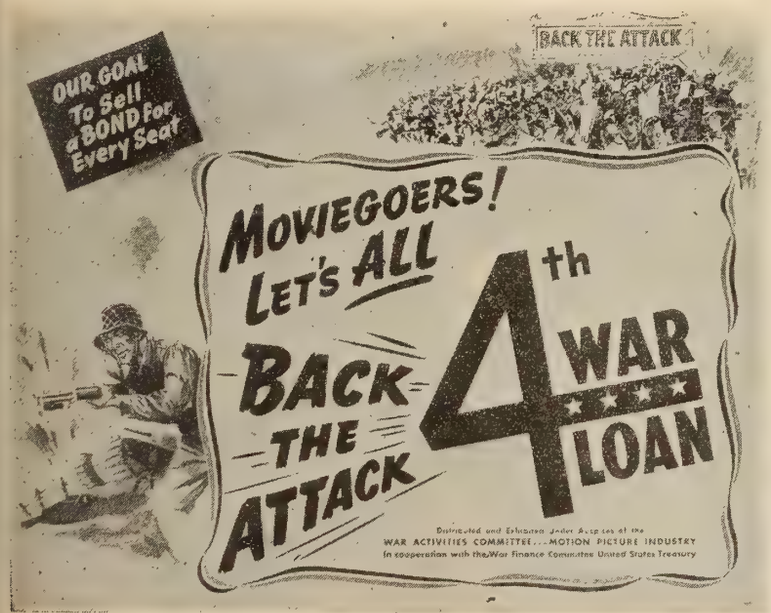
"In this, in all other war activities, the trade press lights the way. Surely, this special issue should provide every bond salesman in the industry with the material to start a bond blaze in his own neighborhood as hard to quench as the bombfires in Berlin."



The Accessories Vary



This is a 22 x 28, included in National Screen Service's Fourth War Loan kit which is available to exhibitors at 75 cents. The shield in 40 x 60 in red, white and blue is available to exhibitors without charge from the Treasury Department.



This attractive 11 x 14 in three colors is also part of the NSS kit. Exclusive of the kit, but also available through NSS, are an usher's sash, an eight-foot valance, a 35-foot outdoor pennant streamer and a 30 x 40 gleaming taffeta banner; the latter two items must be ordered. Campaign trailers may be had without cost through NSS as well. James Cagney and Edward Arnold in "What If They Quit" was released as a Film Bulletin with Jan. 6 newsreels. "Finds a Bargain," Ginger Rogers trailer, will be released Jan. 18, followed by Ann Sothern in "Boxoffice Maisie" on Jan. 27 and Bob Hope in "This Is Bob 'Fourth War Loan' Hope" on Feb. 6. Additionally, 15-foot Technicolor clips of the drive's war shield go to 16,289 WAC-pledged exhibitors through NSS.

Here's How To Sell With Aid Of Servicemen

BECAUSE uniforms and the men who wear them are among the best emotional appeals that can be used in selling "E" bonds, the campaign committee suggests to exhibitors the following special promotions for enlisting the aid of soldiers, sailors, marines and Coast Guardsmen for the Fourth War Loan campaign.

Heroes' Night

Dedicate a night to a local hero or heroes. Men today are coming back from the fighting fronts, some of them wounded; make them the basis of a rally. Advertise the night, contact friends and relatives, invite the veteran's teacher, his former boss, his religious connection.

Honor "G. I. Joe"

He may not be a man who's killed a Jap or a Nazi, but he's left his job, his home and his family to go out and fight. "G. I. Joe" rates a night in his honor and it's money across the bond booth! Salute "G. I. Joe" as the man who represents all the boys who have gone into the service. Let him make a brief address, prepare a scroll and let the people who buy bonds sign it.

Back "G. I. Joe"

Across the Sea

The exhibitor who cooked up this one got letters back from men overseas that he says he wouldn't sell for a million dollars. Here's how it went: He dedicated a day to a boy who was "somewhere in New Guinea." Made a blow-up of his photograph, put it in the lobby, with bond-selling copy on it. The boy's name went up on the marquee, his photograph with an explanatory story sent to the papers, a special night in his honor was staged. Then the manager collected all results; the newspaper breaks, the names of the boy's friends who bought "E" bonds in his honor; a photograph was taken of the marquee with the boy's name on it—and it was all sent overseas to "G. I. Joe."

Everybody went for this, bonds were sold, and "G. I. Joe" "somewhere in New Guinea" got a thrill that he'll remember for the rest of his life.

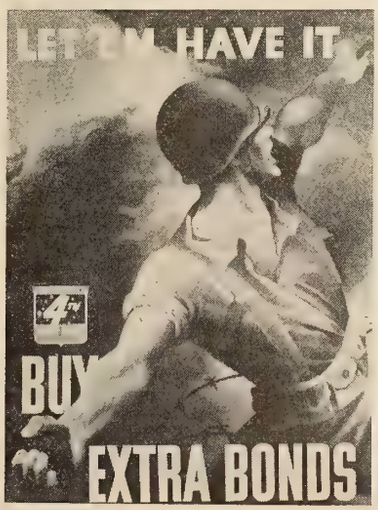
Next of Kin

Pay tribute to service mothers, gold star mothers, sweethearts and families of the fighting men. Let them all sell bonds in honor of their kinfolk in the service, announce the results from the stage. If there is a gold star mother who would be willing to speak, hold a bond rally in the theatre the night results are announced. The gold star mother can explain that buying extra bonds will keep many mothers from making the sacrifice she did.

Heroes' Co-workers Will Back the Attack

Here's a new way to salute a hero. Get his name, find out where he worked before donning a uniform. Talk to the personnel manager of the office, war plant, store, etc., where he was employed, and let them take over a whole night to sell bonds in honor of their fighting colleague. Give these people a chance to act as a group. They have no way of expressing their loyalty to their former co-worker. There are hundreds of such groups in each town. They will be glad of the chance to help.

This Is Free

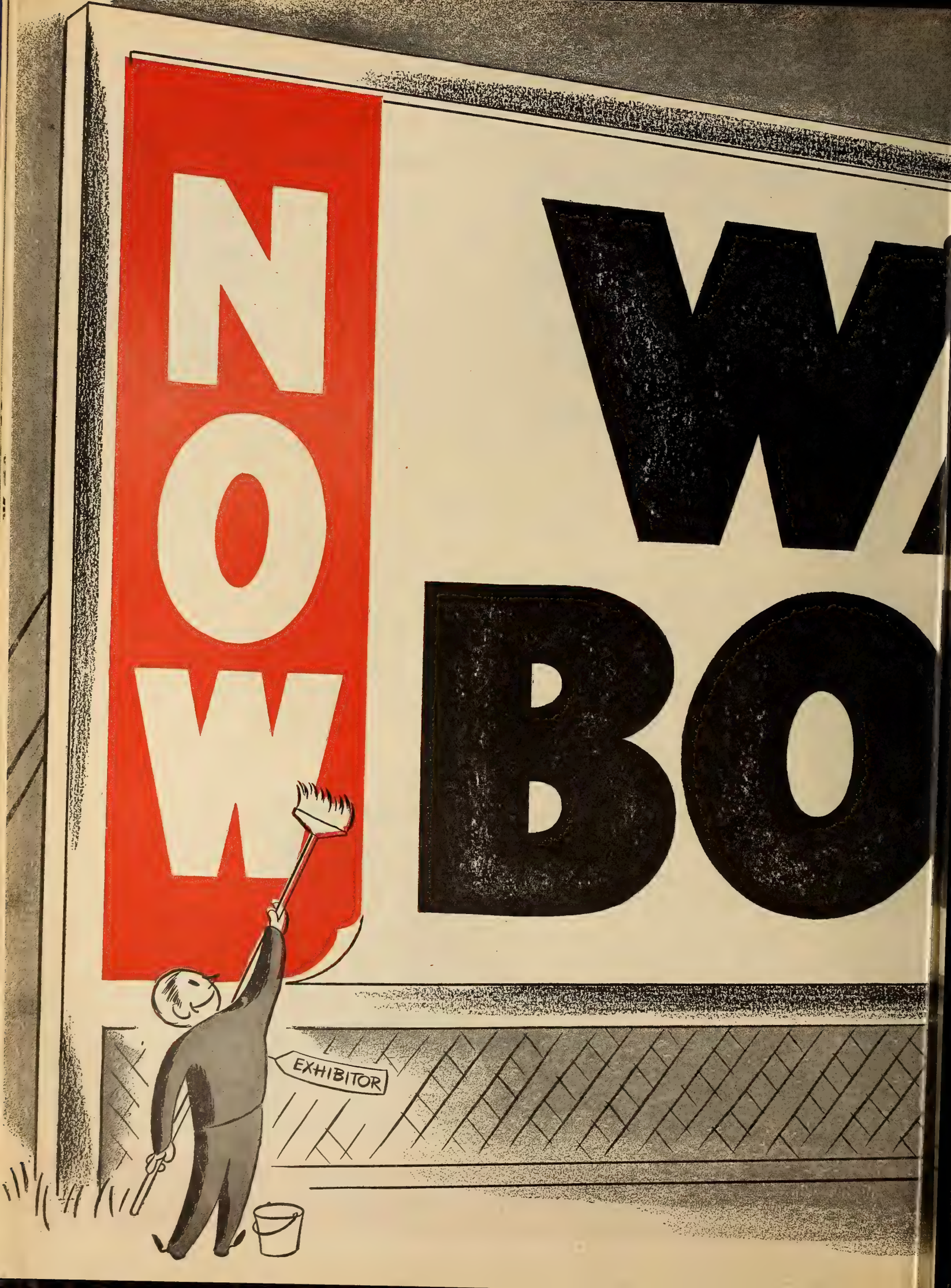


Treasury Department poster in three colors and two sizes—20 x 25 and 22 x 40. It's free to exhibitors.

Red, White and Blue



One sheet, also available in 40 x 60 in three colors. Part of the NSS kit.


NOW
WA
BO
EXHIBITOR


AR
NDS
Coming Soon!
VICTORY
...and we won't forget the March of Dimes!
Space contributed by United Artists

Radio Aligning Resources Behind Drive

Four Networks Are Preparing Rallies, Shows

THE four national radio networks which contributed generously of their air time, talent and public appeal resources to the first three War Loan Drives, are mustering their forces to cooperate in making the fourth as successful as the past three drives.

Spearheading Columbia Broadcasting System's participation in the 4th War Loan Drive are 12 coast-to-coast war loan rallies and broadcasts arranged in a three-way, nation-wide tie-up—the first of its kind in history—over the 134 radio stations of the network in continental U. S., the 5,500 member hotels of the American Hotel Ass'n, and the Treasury Department.

Starting Jan. 18, these programs, originating in as many cities, will be broadcast over the CBS net from leading hotels, in whose ballrooms and banquet halls testimonial dinners will be given by the management to honor local war bond campaign workers. These broadcasts will be supplemented by additional local broadcasts from other member hotels of the association on other local CBS stations.

Will Feature Human Interest

Each CBS program will feature human interest stories of local and regional war bond sales. As each show goes on the air, last minute totals of local, state and national sales will be flashed from Washington as news items to be broadcast. In addition to featuring local bond stories, the programs also will include performances by name bands currently playing the various hotels. The Hollywood Victory Committee will schedule stars playing in nearby regions for appearances at these dinners as the programs go on the air. The 12 cities from which the broadcasts will originate are Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Dallas, Detroit, Denver, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, New Orleans and Washington.

The testimonial dinners by individual hotels will be staged for war bond salesmen. Through the cooperation of the local bond committees, it is expected the governors of the various states where these dinners are held, as well as municipal officials, will attend to pay tribute to the foremost bond salesmen among the volunteer workers in each city. In a drive to get average wage earners to purchase more bonds, the Treasury will name member hotels as issuing agents for bonds with many of the hotels expected to place bond booths in their lobbies. The coast-to-coast broadcasts will be half-hour programs.

Another feature of CBS participation is the designation of Feb. 1 as "Kate Smith-CBS War Bond Day" with Kate going on the network programs at 8 a.m. She will remain by the "mike" until 1 a.m. the following morning, appearing on almost every program to ask the nation-wide audience to pledge purchases of bonds. Miss Smith will try to surpass her total of more than $39,000,000 worth of bonds sold over the net last fall.

Firing the opening gun on the Blue Network's participation in the Fourth War Loan Drive will be the broadcast of the 1944 All-American Jazz Band "jam session" from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York on the evening of Jan. 18 with most of the 176 Blue affiliated stations from coast-to-coast expected to carry the program. Admission to the Metropolitan will be by war bond purchases, the best seats going to the buyers of the bonds of high denominations.

Plans Varied, Extensive

The Blue plans a concentration of announcements urging war bond purchases during the first three days of the drive, scheduling about 75 such announcements for the three days with others to follow throughout the campaign. Another highlight of the Blue's participation will be a series of four special 15-minute programs broadcast on Thursdays starting Jan. 20, based on the Bill of Rights.

These dramatizations, authored by Ira Marion under the title "Congress Shall Make No Law," will feature Katharine Cornell, making one of her rare air appearances, and Raymond Massey on Jan. 20; Margaret Sullavan on Jan. 27; Jane Cowl on Feb. 3; with the guest for the fourth program on Feb. 10 to be announced. Further plans are being formulated by the Blue.

Mutual, which claims to have originated the idea of a network devoting a full day of special features to the bond drives, has been granted the opening day of the Fourth War Loan Drive, Jan. 18, as "Mutual War Bond Day." Special features starting at 10 a.m. and continuing to 2 a.m. the following morning are planned to tie-in with the opening of the drive. From 11:55 to noon, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, Vicar of the Armed Forces, will be heard in a special invocation and prayer for the drive from Philadelphia. He will be introduced by Bernard Samuel, mayor of Philadelphia, and the Liberty Bell will be struck four times to signify the opening of the drive.

Other features planned for the day include "Bonds for Our Boys," featuring men of the Armed Forces from Fort Dix, Algiers, Naples and London as well as from Halloran General Hospital. Another special feature will be picked up from the Orpheum Theatre in Ogden, Utah, featuring men of the Armed Forces. War workers and farmers will also be heard from various parts of the country on special programs.

It is planned to feature a special concert by the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra with Eric Leinsdorf, soon to report for Army duty, conducting the orchestra from Severance Hall. A top dramatic star like Massey is being sought to read an essay in a special program titled "Spend, Sucker, Spend." Mutual will feature spot announcements throughout the drive and other special programs are being planned.

National Broadcasting Company spokesmen report plans for the network's participation have not yet been completed, but will be in a few days.

All four networks will participate in a full-hour show next Monday night heralding the opening of the drive. Titled "Let's All Back the Attack," the program will feature an address by Secretary of the Treasury Henry C. Morgenthau; talks by four Governors; and entertainment by Ronald Reagan, Bing Crosby, Judy Garland, John Charles Thomas, Conrad Nagel and others. Music will be provided by Capt. Glenn Miller and the band of the Air Forces Training Command and David Broeckman's orchestra.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

He's No. 1



William K. ("Billy") Saxton, manager of Loew's Century, Baltimore, is the first to file his entry in the "Honored Hundred" contest, one of the features of the Fourth War Loan Drive. Saxton is a Loew veteran, having been with the circuit continuously for approximately 14 years.

Special Gov't Form For Contest

"HONORED HUNDRED" Contest Certification

Theater Manager: Be sure that this stub is signed by the issuing agent,* detached and retained by you until the end of the contest, then mailed to your War Activities Committee State Chairman with your final report.

This application is for ..... E Bonds (Number) — Purchased by ..... (Name of individual)

Sold by ..... (Name of theater) — Total amount of purchase, $..... (Maturity value)

Attested by ..... (Signature of issuing agent) — Date ..... (Must be from midnight January 17 through February 15 to be counted in contest)

*Theaters that have qualified as issuing agents may attest their own applications.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1944 16—37903-1

This is the lower portion of a special form issued by the Treasury Dep't for use of exhibitors in the Fourth War Loan Drive. It is attached to the regulation form employed in bond purchases, but ties in the "Honored Hundred" contest. Exhibitors are to detach these blanks, hold and mail to their WAC state chairman when the competition closes on Feb. 29—its new expiration date—for credit in the contest.

See page 37 for contest rules.

Opening Shot Over All Webs Monday Night

Santa Paula Gets Bond Drive Boost

SANTA PAULA, Cal., Jan. 13.—Theatregoers here have inaugurated a "Send Don Austin to Washington" movement, Austin being a popular theatre manager in town. The campaign is a boon to the Fourth War Loan Drive in that every bond purchased in local houses is counted as a vote for Austin.

The stunt is considered a good one in local bond drive circles and, it is hoped, will be duplicated.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Allied of N. J. Holds Bond-Dimes Meeting

Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey met at headquarters in the Sardi Building here during the week, with president Harry H. Lowenstein in charge, and completed plans for participation in both the Fourth War Loan Drive and the "March of Dimes" campaign.

The regular January meeting of the organization is scheduled to be held in Trenton in the next few days.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Governor Talks

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 13.—Governor Chauncey Sparks was the principal speaker at a meeting of exhibitors held this week in connection with the Fourth War Loan Drive.

A Bond for Every Seat!


Not If We
BUY MORE
BONDS!
posed by
NANCY
KELLY
MONOGRAM
PC
PICTURES

Carolinas Are In Gear; Bond Plans All Set

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 13.—Working through the theatre owners of the Carolinas, the War Activities Committee and the film colony here, exhibitors, managers, branch managers and film salesmen have literally taken off their coats and practically deserted their businesses to sell bonds in the Fourth War Loan Drive.

One general preliminary meeting has been held in Charlotte. Dozens of local meetings have been held in key cities throughout the Carolinas with the War Finance Committees. Two bulletins have gone out to all theatres. Great emphasis is placed on coordinating industry efforts with that of other businesses and the War Finance Committees.

Every film salesman has been assigned his quota of theatres to cover throughout the entire campaign, with complete written instructions. The Fourth War Loan Drive and its success are to be the first order of business. Emphasis is being placed on bond benefits and Free Movie Days with a goal of at least one in every theatre. In every case, industry personnel is working closely with the War Finance Committee to obtain greatest possible bond sales. More than 125 theatres already are pledged for a bond benefit or a Free Movie Day and additional pledges are coming in daily.

In addition, industry committees in Greensboro, Durham, Fayetteville, Columbia, Wilmington and Spartanburg are working up "G. I." performances for nearby towns with military talent.

Co-sponsorships are being worked out for bond benefits, bond auctions, talent shows, radio shows and Free Movie Days with newspapers, radio stations, civic clubs and women's organizations.

A quick survey of the field shows that in many Carolinas towns patriotic groups are looking to the theatres for leadership, initiative and showmanship.

Special attention is being given to dressing up theatres.

Long lists are being compiled of prospective bond purchasers for personal solicitation by individuals.

The school contests to honor the best bond salesman among the students, which was so effective during the Third War Loan, are being repeated and expanded.

The "kickoff" rally is slated for Jan. 17, or one day before the drive opens, in conjunction with convention of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina at the Hotel Charlotte. The rally will feature the morning session of the closing day of a two-day convention.

Speakers will include S. H. Fabian, WAC; Norris Hadaway, publicity chairman, North Carolina War Finance Committee; E. L. Kuykendall, MPTOA president; Nat Williams, president, Southeastern Theatre Owners Ass'n; H. E. Buchanan, Hendersonville, N. C., exhibitor; Robert B. Wilby, Atlanta; Kincey and Irwin.

H. F. Kincey is North Carolina state chairman and Warren Irvin, South Carolina state chairman, both being members of the Carolinas War Activities Committee, of which Roy L. Smart is coordinator and Mrs. Walter Griffith, secretary. Other members are C. H. Arrington, Lyle M. Wilson, Roy Rowe, H. H. Everett, J. H. Dillon, H. R. Berry, George W. Parr, C. R. Bamford.

"A Bond for Every Seat"

Memo Pad for the Bond Drive

THE campaign committee tallies 15 items which the exhibitor should check off if he wants to be completely on the beam during the Fourth War Loan Drive. Here they are:

1—Read your Fourth War Loan press book thoroughly.
2—Make your theatre an issuing agent.
3—Develop new and extra ideas for your campaign.
4—Set your showmanly efforts high enough to win a place among the "Honored Hundred."
5—Start blacking out your seat chart with immediate and regular bond sales.
6—Schedule one or more bond premieres.
7—Invite local service heroes to your stage for bond rallies.
8—Stimulate bond-selling competition among your employes.
9—Use the Fourth War Loan accessories. (Check with National Screen Service.)
10—Keep your bond booth active.
11—Work out cooperative Fourth War Loan ideas with your newspapers, radio stations, retail merchants.
12—Slug your ads with bond copy.
13—Hang the Treasury Department red, white and blue Fourth War Loan seal in your box-office.
14—Plan an all-out, one-day bond push, calling in all other bond-selling agencies as suggested on page 16 of the press book.
15—Buy extra bonds yourself. Ask your employes to do likewise. And *sell, sell, sell* bonds until you actually have "A Bond for Every Seat."

And, finally:

Keep abreast of Fourth War Loan news through the trade press.

Legion Selling, Too; It's Good Anywhere

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 13.—Sidney Kleper, manager of the Bijou, has enlisted the aid of the American Legion of Greater New Haven in his Fourth War Loan activities. The Legion is recruiting a group of 500 salesmen who have pledged to sell at least 10 $25 war bonds in honor of a boy or girl in the service.

A large honor roll will be erected in the lobby of the Bijou and a small American flag will be placed opposite the hero's name when he has been honored by a legionnaire with the sale of 10 bonds.

The Men Behind That Press Book

EARLY reports reaching the Fourth War Loan committee in New York describe the press book prepared for the drive as "the most practical and complete press book ever created for a war bond drive. Here are the men responsible:

Charles Einfeld, vice-president of Warner in charge of advertising and publicity, who acted as counsel and adviser.

Ed Schreiber, publicity director of the War Activities Committee.

Marty Weiser, of the Warner studio publicity department.

John Wentworth, who designed it.

In cooperation with Seymour Peiser, publicity director of the industry's bond drive.

Hartford Set with An 'All-Army' Show

HARTFORD, Jan. 13.—The opening gun of the Fourth War Loan Drive will be fired in Hartford by theatremen of the area on Jan. 18 with an All-Army show to be staged at the Colonial. Talent will be recruited from anti-aircraft and Air Force units stationed in Hartford, Manchester, and Bradely Field, Conn., and admission will be purchase of bonds.

The following theatremen were present at the determining meeting: Henry Needles, Hartford district manager for Warner Theatres; Lou Cohen, Loew's Poli; Fred Greenway, Loew's Palace; James McCarthy, Strand; Frank Morin, Regal; Frank Smith, Lenox; San Harris, State; Bernard Levy, Proven Pictures; Dave Sugarman, Colonial; Dave Demming, Rialto; Maurice Schulman, Rivoli and Webster.

WE CAN
MAKE VICTORY
THIS SEASON'S PRODUCT

★

"Let's All Back The Attack"

★

BUY WAR BONDS
4th WAR LOAN

—A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT—

PRC PICTURES, INC.

A Bond for Every Seat!

"Attention!"

THE FACILITIES OF
NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE
ARE BEING DONATED TO
HELP the GOVERNMENT
in the

4TH WAR LOAN DRIVE



"AT YOUR SERVICE!"

Contact your nearest N. S. S. Exchange where a full line of accessories are available to help you put over this drive.

"SELL A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT"

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

"AND WE WILL BE MARCHING IN THE MARCH OF DIMES TOO"


KEEP THE LIBERTY BELL RINGING!
GET BEHIND THE FOURTH WAR BOND DRIVE!
REPUBLIC PICTURES CORPORATION

DO NOT REMOVE

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 11 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1944 TEN CENTS

U.S. CRACKING DOWN ON OCR VIOLATIONS

'Wilful' Underestimating of Building Costs Will Be Heavily Fined

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Office of Civilian Requirements and War Production Board officials, confronted with recurring violations and evasions of restrictions in film exhibition, have decided to adopt a "hard-boiled" attitude toward noncompliance in the future.

It may impose sanctions on violators in the form of stop orders and heavy fines, it was learned here today.

A substantial number of such cases have been compiled by George W. McMurphy, chief of the OCR amusements and recreation section, and it has been found that they fall largely into two groups: one, the deliberate underestimating of costs of new construction, and the other, violations of restrictions on maintenance, repair and operating expenses to the 1942 level.

McMurphy explained that a number of cases have arisen in connection with new theatres proposed for war

(*Continued on page 7*)

Coplan Replaces Carr For U. A. in London

E. T. (Teddy) Carr, veteran managing director in Britain for United Artists, has resigned that post. David H. Coplan, United Artists Canadian chief, has been named to Carr's post until a permanent U. A. managing

(*Continued on page 12*)

Granted Exemption From 48-Hour Week

Film distributors in Oklahoma City area have been granted an exemption from the 48-hour week which went into effect on Nov. 15 when the War Manpower Commission designated that area as one in which a critical manpower shortage existed. Film exchanges will be permitted to remain on their present work week.

Appeals by the distributors for exemption were handled through C. J. Scollard, Paramount executive.

WAC Reports 9,507 Programs Sent to Troops Overseas

Servicemen in overseas combat areas have received to date 9,507 film programs, contributed by the U. S. industry, it was reported here at the weekend by Francis S. Harmon, executive vice-chairman of the War Activities Committeee. Of the total, 8,255 were prints of current films, the remainder being key pictures of former years, as requested by the War Department for use on transports and supplementary showings abroad.

Originally, when there were less troops overseas, four prints were given to the Army each week. But deliveries now are at a rate of 191 prints weekly, with 250 a week the goal.

The programs, on 16mm, contain a feature, one or two shorts and a newsreel, and average 100 minutes running time. Special service officers of the War Department select the pictures. Audiences include Army, Navy.

(*Continued on page 12*)

10,900 Prints Ready For 'Dimes' Drive

Herman Robbins, chairman of the film committee of the industry's March of Dimes Drive, reported at the weekend that 10,900 prints of the trailers featuring Greer Garson have been shipped to National Screen exchanges and that every area has now been covered. More than 3,500,000 feet of film were used in the current trailer, which goes to exhibitors gratis. In addition to the trailer, newsreels this week will include a special shot, made by 20th-Fox, in which Tyrone Power appeals for support for the Polio drive.

"Dimes" drive industry executives also report that full cooperation of the national IATSE has been offered by Richard Walsh, international president.

The campaign committee for the New York area will be hosts to independent and circuit exhibitors on Friday at a breakfast to be held in the Hotel Astor. Featured will be a demonstration of the Sister Kenny method for treating infantile paralysis.

TICKETS MAY BE CHECKED BY GOV'T

Films Seen In State Dept. Postwar Unit

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—A new streamlined organization "for the protection and furtherance of the interests of American industry abroad in the postwar period" is expected to be announced in the immediate future by the State Department, representatives of which discussed motion picture phases of the new set-up with film company officials at a conference in New York last Thursday.

Out of this re-organization may develop a joint State and Commerce Department program for "energetic" development of foreign opportunities

(*Continued on page 12*)

Decree Heads Meet Clark in D. C. Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Representatives of the decree companies are expected here tomorrow for what may be the final session on their proposals for a revised decree.

The meeting was originally scheduled to take place in New York, where Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark expected to have other business to attend to, but the other matters in which he is interested will not develop until the end of the week and, believing that the film question should not be delayed, the companies were invited to come to the Department here.

Clark left here Friday for the weekend, taking with him the printed draft of the companies' proposals received last Wednesday. As he prepared to leave, Clark pointed out that while the draft represents the distributors' final proposals, nothing has been accepted by the Department and the door has not been closed upon changes which the Government might demand, either on its own initiative or as a result of representations by the exhibitor leaders who are yet to be consulted.

Tomorrow's conference, Clark emphasized, will be purely for the purpose of discussing the distributors' views as to what should go into the decree and the extent to which they are acceptable to the Department. After this has been thrashed out and the understanding reached, the sessions with the exhibitors will follow.

Revenue Dep't Weighs Federal Licensing of Ticket Firms

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Suggestions that theatres be required to use tickets produced by licensed printers, giving the Government an additional check on admission taxes, have been under discussion in the Internal Revenue Bureau, it was learned today.

The proposals for Federal serialization of theatre tickets are understood to have been introduced recently in connection with a review of collection experiences under the former admission tax and with the prospect of fortifying the collection process when the new admission tax becomes effective.

That closer surveillance be maintained over theatre ticket sales is understood to have been inspired by

(*Continued on page 12*)

Selznick in Deal With J. A. Rank

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—In the first formal deal involving collaboration between a leading American producer and J. Arthur Rank, British industry leader, David O. Selznick has announced completion of arrangements

(*Continued on page 12*)

Rodgers Pledges UIE Relief If Warranted

The New York Unaffilliated Independent Exhibitors' trade practice committee met for the second time on Friday with William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president in charge of distribution, Jack Bowen, New York and New Jersey district manager and Ralph Pielow, New York branch manager. Rodgers made known his findings of their trade practice complaints as presented to him at an earlier meeting. Rodgers stated that if any unfair terms were levied on M-G-M pictures, adjustments would be made, predicated on gross receipts and operating expense of normal operations.

Personal Mention

AL LICHTMAN, Loew's vice-president, left for the Coast by plane Saturday.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, ARTHUR SACHSON, CLARENCE EISENMAN, WOLFE COHEN, CHARLES MOSES, and A. A. HORELL, all of Warners, were the weekend guests of FRED SCHWARTZ, at his Lake Placid home.

•

MIDSHIPMAN GUY FONTAINE, son of J. E. FONTAINE, Paramount branch manager in Washington, was graduated Saturday from the Merchant Marine at Kings Point, N. Y., with the rank of Ensign.

•

ANNE FAVILLA, formerly secretary in Universal's home office contract department, has been appointed secretary to E. L. MCEVOY, sales executive.

•

ANTOINETTE (TONI) SPITZER, Walt Disney's Eastern manager and publicity director, will leave New York Jan. 24 for a month's tour with "Snow White" "voices."

•

CHARLES RYAN, zone supervisor for Warner theatres in Chicago, has recovered from a stroke of paralysis suffered some time ago.

•

R. E. HACKER, office manager of the Des Moines branch of the Film Transportation Co., is seriously ill in a Des Moines hospital.

•

IRVING SHAPIRO, Film Classics general manager, is due back from Washington today after visiting the company's exchange there.

•

HARRY KAUFMAN, general manager of Monogram Pictures in Canada, is visiting Pacific Coast branches and will return in about a month.

•

FRED SAMMIS, editorial director of *Photoplay,* left at the weekend for Hollywood.

•

M. C. CUE, auditor at the New York Universal office, is in Des Moines for a week.

•

DICK BECK of the Chicago Warner Theatres office, has reported for duty with the Army.

•

EARLE W. SWEIGERT, Paramount's Philadelphia district manager, visited here Friday.

•

NEIL AGNEW, Paramount general sales manager will return from a Canadian sales trip on Friday.

•

JACK H. LEVIN, director of Copyright Protection Bureau, left over the weekend for a ten-day trip to Miami.

•

FRED L. LYNCH, publicity-advertising director of Radio City Music Hall, left for the Coast at the weekend.

•

HANK LINET returned at the weekend from Boston.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE manifestations of willingness on the part of the State Department to give official attention and assistance to the industry's postwar problems and plans is one of the most significant and encouraging developments to come out of the industry's relations with Washington in many and many a year.

Granted that the extent of State Department collaboration has not been defined yet, still the expressed desire of Department representatives to familiarize themselves with industry problems of an international character augurs well for a new relationship between government and industry in postwar operations in foreign markets. At the very least, a new understanding of the importance of the motion picture as a world ambassador impliedly has been impressed upon Washington at long last. The significance of even a belated recognition by officialdom of the film's international role cannot be underestimated.

• •

Distribution's foreign representatives have had many disheartening experiences to cope with and recount in the field of industry relations in alien markets with the representatives of their Government. Only recently have there been evidences that the foreign representatives of this industry have been in a position to obtain a sympathetic audience and a helping hand in deserving instances at our embassies and consulates abroad. In the past, the custom was to keep filmdom's representatives cooling their heels in anterooms while trade attaches ministered to the wants of refrigerator, automobile and oil salesmen.

The American motion picture is entitled in its own right to at least the same attention from its Government's foreign attaches as that accorded any other American export. Other governments for long have recognized the tremendous possibilities of their native films as missionaries of international trade, goodwill and understanding. Whatever collaboration Washington eventually sees fit to accord this industry in world markets can be no more than that which other governments for many years past have accorded theirs and will extend to them in the future. The success of foreign efforts can be measured primarily in what they are able to dislodge from the American industry's international sphere. The success of Washington's new policy will be measured by what it does in the way of defending the American industry from discriminatory, legislated encroachment in those foreign markets which have been open to competitive enterprise in the past.

• •

An RKO theatre executive sends the following observations on this column's remarks about a week ago concerning the perennial "Stage vs. Films" debate:

"I read with a smile your comments on detractors of the motion picture. With all their years of pontificating about films, the smart boys are never willing to concede any difference between stage and screen as entertainment.

" 'The Voice of the Turtle' is a swell show in the 900-seat Morosco Theatre, but it would be dreadful in the Music Hall. Yet you could show 'Flesh and Fantasy' or 'Lifeboat' in either opera house. The motion picture is that elastic. Not so, the stage. Poor Roxy forgot that the night he opened the Music Hall."

• •

Informed reports are that discussions were under way in London recently (but are no longer) for the establishment of an all-British control of United Artists, presumably with the participation of Charlie Chaplin and Sir Alexander Korda, both British subjects, and of J. Arthur Rank. It was not established that Rank entertained the proposals seriously, presumably because he had been informed previously that United Artists would not approve the sale of a controlling interest in the company to any one person or group.

United Artists, according to reliable reports, stood ready to discuss a deal with Rank for the latter's acquisition of any minority interest in the company up to 50 per cent. Discussions were terminated when Rank indicated at the time that he would not be interested in anything less than a controlling interest. Hence Ed Raftery's recent denial that U. A. was negotiating for sale of the company.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 16

WALTER PIDGEON, Red Skelton and Cecilia Parker were added to the "War Bondbardier" personnel over the weekend.

•

Pine-Thomas have bought "Thunder Mountain," an original which will star Chester Morris. They also announce "Abroad with Two Yanks," a comedy; Lew Seiler, borrowed from TFC, will direct.

'In Our Time' Preview To Help Launch Loan

Warner Bros. will give a special preview of "In Our Time," co-starring Ida Lupino and Paul Henreid, aboard the Statue of Liberty boat in New York tomorrow afternoon, following a program of ceremonies designed to help the 4th War Loan drive.

Mort Blumenstock's department at Warners is handling the event, which will include a press tour of the Statue of Liberty, music by a military band, pledging of War Bond purchases by representatives of 24 foreign groups, and other ceremonies. The event will be covered by newsreels, news writers and press photographers.

Film will have a pre-release premiere in Buffalo on Feb. 4, tentatively set for the Great Lakes Theatre, with the Buffalo Theatre as an alternative, depending upon other bookings. General release date of the picture is Feb. 19. It will follow "Destination Tokyo" into the New York Strand next month.

Accepts Papers for SAG in Warner Suit

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—William Berger, counsel for the Screen Actors Guild, has accepted service of papers in Warner Bros.' $500,000 suit for damages against the Guild. The action is the result of the recent controversy over Warners' "Hollywood Canteen."

Berger told MOTION PICTURE DAILY at the weekend: "I accepted service of the papers for the Guild and those of the board named in the action who are now in Hollywood."

James Cagney, president of SAG, one of the principals named, is at present on the East Coast.

Films to Teach World Democracy: C. F. Coe

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—That Democracy is a better way of life and will be taught to the peoples of all nations throughout the medium of motion pictures was interpreted by Charles Francis Coe, vice-president and general counsel of the M. P. Producers and Distributors of America, in an address before 450 members of the Executive Club at a luncheon in the Hotel Sherman here at the weekend.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.


Unforgettable

Ginger Rogers

as America's *"Chin-Up Girl"* in
the screen's great love story for 1944!

Tender Comrade

with

Robert Ryan
Ruth Hussey
Patricia Collinge
Mady Christians
Kim Hunter
Jane Darwell
Richard Martin



Produced by
DAVID HEMPSTEAD
Directed by
EDWARD DMYTRYK
Story and Screenplay by Dalton Trumbo


Unforgettable



"SMASH!"

"SURE-FIRE!"

"FINEST!"

"TOPLINE!"

"BEST!"

"TRIUMPH!"

"YEAR'S BEST!"

"EXCELLENT!"

"Ginger Rogers in emotional yarn geared for smash box-office." — *Variety*

"Packs box-office kick . . . sure-fire . . . Ginger Rogers at her best." — *Film Daily*

"Finest appearance Ginger Rogers has ever made . . . Will attain record-breaking box-office success." — *Hollywood Reporter*

"Due for topline biz in all bookings and rates holdovers for solid box-office." — *Hollywood Variety*

"Ginger Rogers has one of her best roles . . . Holds wide-spread appeal . . . excellently performed." — *Motion Picture Daily*

"Comedy and pathos . . . a triumph for the star, and satisfaction for her countless admirers." — *Motion Picture Herald*

"The woman's picture of the year . . . Touching love story ranks with the best." — *The Exhibitor*

"A field day for women . . . destined for excellent box-office career." — *Showmen's Trade Review*

NATIONALLY ADVERTISED *by the "Showman's Company" in LIFE, LOOK, LIBERTY, WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION and FAN Magazines with a*

TOTAL CIRCULATION OF 21,777,509!

Ginger Rogers

.. the *'Chin-Up' Girl*

Tender Comrade

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Our two big jobs in January: Fourth War Loan and March of Dimes.

S.S. Carole Lombard Launched on Coast

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 16.—Launching of the S.S. Carole Lombard at Calship Yards in San Pedro harbor, Cal., was held Saturday, exactly two years, less one day, from the time the star lost her life in a plane crash while on a bond selling tour.

Every section of the film industry was represented. Irene Dunne sponsored the ship. Other speakers invited were L. B. Mayer and John Carmody, head of the Maritime Commission. The committee included Y. Frank Freeman and James Cagney.

The launching perpetuates the name of one of the industry's most beloved figures as a symbol of the unstinting effort of all branches of the industry in all bond drives. The event was covered by the five newsreel companies, all wire services and magazines. Ceremonies were broadcast over Mutual.

Columbia Exploiteers Meet on Bonds

Columbia's ad-publicity and art staff met late last week in a 4th War Loan drive rally, pledging themselves individually to buy, or be responsible for the sale of at least $100 worth of bonds. Walter Lobel, former Columbia exploiteer, now a radio gunner in the Air Forces, addressed the meeting.

Other speakers included Robert S. Ferguson, Columbia unit chairman of the Screen Publicists Guild, and Bernice Kaufman of the publicity department. Floyd L. Weber, Columbia chairman of the drive, has announced that prizes of war bonds and extra paid vacation time will be awarded to those employes bringing in the greatest volume of sales in dollars, and in the number of individual bonds sold.

Industry Launches Drive Tomorrow

Film theatres in the Metropolitan area will launch the 4th War Loan drive in a rally in Times Square at noon tomorrow, to signalize their participation. The rally will center around a ceremony in which a symbol will be unveiled that will represent the theatres' part in the drive, based on the slogan, "A Bond for Every Seat."

Honor LeFrancois At Boston Dinner

BOSTON, Jan. 16.—New England theatre advertising and publicity representatives and 60 newspaper men from 14 New England cities were guests at a dinner at the Hotel Statler here at the weekend, given for Capt. W. S. LeFrancois in connection with Universal's Boston opening of "Gung Ho!" Capt. LeFrancois was a member of Carlson's Raiders who attacked Mankin, and acted as technical adviser on the film.

A feature of the dinner was LeFrancois' reunion with Com. William H. Brockman of the U. S. Navy, one of the submarine commanders who carried the Makin raiders, also an honored guest. Hank Linet and Al Horwits handled the arrangements.

Morris Reitman Dies

Funeral services were held at the weekend here for Morris Reitman, 32, formerly treasurer of S.O.S. Cinema Supply Corp. Surviving are a wife and four-year-old daughter.

Critics' Quotes . . .

"LIFEBOAT" (20th Century-Fox)

GEORGE E. BLACKFORD, N. Y. *Journal-American*—. . . The film is . . . a thrilling and fascinating experience. . . . It is absorbing, thought-compelling, razor-sharp in realism. . . . The players have turned in exceptional performances.

KATE CAMERON, N. Y. *Daily News*—. . . Director Alfred Hitchcock has done it again in "Lifeboat." That is, he has made a picture chock-full of suspense, replete with suggestions of horror and overlaid with touches of bright humor.

HOWARD BARNES, N. Y. *Herald Tribune*—. . . A memorable film . . . it emerges as a bitterly absorbing and pictorially beautiful show . . . a magnificent *tour de force* . . . a brilliant cinematic achievement . . . a film to treasure among the best.

LEE MORTIMER, N. Y. *Daily Mirror*—. . . As a film, it is well-nigh perfect. It is replete with suspense, action, pathos and humor. . . . That few of the characters among the ill-assorted company . . . are believable is not the fault of the players or the director.

BOSLEY CROWTHER, N. Y. *Times*—. . . A tremendously provocative film. . . . A tense and vital drama . . . absorbing in its revelations of character and its brilliantly pictorialized details. . . . The Nazis, with some cutting here and there, could turn "Lifeboat" into a whiplash against the "decadent democracies." It is questionable whether such a picture, with such a theme, is judicious at this time.

ARCHER WINSTEN, N. Y. *Post*—. . . There is melodrama, humor, tragedy and surprise. . . . The picture's only weaknesses stem from occasional touches of artificiality. . . . The picture assures itself of a place among the more distinguished maritime melodramas.

ALTON COOK, N. Y. *World-Telegram*—. . . Is full of probably the most vivid and graphic set of performances that ever got into a single film. . . . As something you get for your money in the entertainment way, it rates tops.

EILEEN CREELMAN, N. Y. *Sun*—. . . One of the year's most unusual pictures. . . . It is good drama. . . . The laughter is frequent, refreshing and good to remember. . . . Is brilliantly written and directed drama.

20th-Fox Traveling Auditors Finish Meet

The annual three-day conference of 20th Century-Fox traveling auditors, held in the home office, was concluded late last week, and the auditors who attended left at the weekend for their respective territories. The conference was supervised by comptroller W. J. Eadie and his assistants, branch accountants Nat Brower and Maurice Goodman. It dealt with discussions on branch operations and maintenance of reports and records between exchanges and home office.

The following home office department heads discussed operations: Jack Sichelman, who talked on physical operations; Harry Fenster, contract records; Harry Mersay, print department; Morris Caplan, tabulating; Edward Hollander, ad sales, and Joe Goldstein, supplies and requisitions. J. H. Lang, C. A. Hill and William Keefe outlined stabilization and records on Federal wages and hours regulations and Bill Clark covered the current season's short subject contracts. George Roberts discussed March of Time Records.

Talks were given by T. J. Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution; William J. Kupper, general sales manager; W. C. Gehring, Western sales manager; A. W. Smith, Jr., Eastern sales manager; and L. J. Schlaifer, Central sales manager. President Spyros Skouras, treasurer Sydney Towell and comptroller W. J. Eadie concluded the talks.

Services for Mrs. Brennan

Funeral services will be held in Philadelphia today for the mother of James M. Brennan, Warner Bros. Theatres assistant treasurer. Mrs. Brennan died late last week.

Coast Office Clerks May Vote on Status

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 16.—A National Labor Relations Board election to determine the bargaining agency for top office workers impends over the studios' stand that all employes are not members of the company union which voted affiliation with the Screen Office Employes Guild.

SOEG, supported by the Conference of Studio Unions, also seeks affiliation of the Paramount and Warners office employes' company unions. In both studios all such employes must belong to the company union, according to a studio agreement. The Conference recently admitted Locals 99 and 193 of the building service employes at Warners to membership.

Herbert Sorrell has been reelected chairman of the Conference. Others returned to office are D. T. Wayne, vice-chairman; Russell McKnight, secretary-treasurer, and Blanche Cole, recording secretary.

Grainger Opens Third Conference on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—Republic's last sales conference of three will begin today at the company's Hollywood studios here. James R. Grainger, president, will preside.

Herbert J. Yates, Jr., will address the meeting and will discuss the new Republic exploitation policy.

Honor Major Sears

BOSTON, Jan. 16.—More than 200 from the local industry gathered in the Hotel Kenmore late last week to pay tribute to Major Dick Sears, veteran newsreeler, who received his honorable discharge from the armed forces and has returned home.

U. S. to Crack Down on OCR Violations

(*Continued from page* 1)

centers in which the applicant secures authorization for the expenditure of a certain sum, only to come in later with a request for an additional amount, apparently going on the theory that an inexpensive theatre will be approved more readily than a more costly one and that, once started, the Government will not allow the project to fail.

Most of the violations, McMurphy said, are apparently due to ignorance or misinterpretation of regulations, although there are some which are deliberate. He emphasized, however, that where an exhibitor cannot keep within his 1942 expenditures, nothing more than a letter to the OCR is needed to secure authority for really necessary maintenance or repair.

"Plagued by Violations"

"As the point of contact between the industry and WPB, we have been plagued by violations which make more difficult our efforts to help exhibitors," McMurphy declared. "We have made a survey and found that in many instances the violations are deliberate. We are determined to stamp out these practices and, if necessary, will proceed against violating exhibitors. The law provides both suspension orders and heavy fines as penalties."

McMurphy revealed that exhibitors in some war centers have opposed the construction of new and needed houses, purely on competitive grounds and said that no attention would be paid to protests so based.

Sgt. Dave Goulding Welcomed at Lunch

Master Sergeant David Goulding, former trade paper reporter here, was the guest of home office advertising and publicity department and trade press representatives at a luncheon at the Blue Ribbon Restaurant on Friday. After service in England, North Africa, Sicily and Italy during the past year, Goulding has been given a four months' assignment as New York correspondent for *Stars and Stripes*, Army newspaper.

Goulding recounted experiences in North Africa and during the Salerno landing to the approximately 35 persons present.

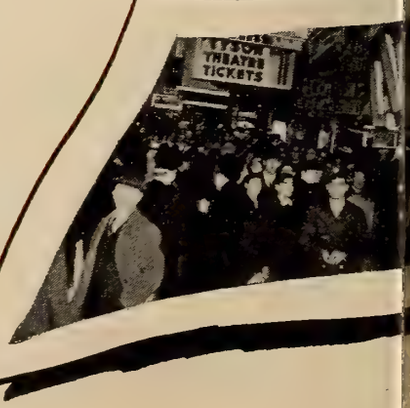
Services Held for William Collier, Sr.

BEVERLY HILLS, Cal., Jan. 16.—Funeral services were held at Forest Lawn yesterday for William Collier, Sr., veteran screen and stage actor, writer and director, who died at his home Thursday following a long illness. He was 77. Surviving is his widow, the former Paula Marr, and one son, William Collier, Jr., actor.

Collier's screen experience, preceded by stage work in this country and London, began with Mack Sennett and Thomas Ince. He last appeared in "The Hard Boiled Canary" in 1941.

"Lifeboat is riding in with the record BREAKERS!"

—Showmen's Trade Review



"OUR TWO BIG JOBS IN JANUARY: FOURTH WAR LOAN AND MARCH OF DIMES"

at the ASTOR!



typical

20th CENTURY-FOX

opening day!

Cincinnati Grosses Dip: 'Woman' Leads

CINCINNATI, Jan. 16. — Weekend grosses were considerably below the preceding week. Among straight film houses, the RKO Palace is leading with "What a Woman" which should do around $16,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 12-16:

"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Latin Quarter Revue. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Unknown Guest" (Mono.)
"Westward Bound" (Mono.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,400. (Average: $1,400).
"Suspected Person" (PRC)
"The Deerslayer" (Rep.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $700. (Average: $800).
"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $9,500).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover from 2nd downtown week at the Shubert. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $5,000)
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover from two weeks at the Capitol. Gross: $4,000. (Average, $4,200).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,000).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Palace. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000).

Booming Baltimore Topped by 'Higher'

BALTIMORE, Jan. 16.—Strong attractions are bringing out film patrons and business continues at peak proportions. Weekends are playing to over-capacity and matinees have scored a definite improvement in attendance. "Higher and Higher" plus a stage show is taking $21,000 at the Hippodrome with "Destination Tokyo" $19,000 at the Stanley.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 13:

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $16,500).
"Riding High" (Para.)
KEITH'S—(2,406) (28c-40c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000).
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (28c-35c-40c-55c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,700).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
STANLEY — (3,280) (28c-40c-55c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $16,900).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
HIPPODROME — (2,205) (28c-39c-44c-55c-66c) 7 days. Stage show: Happy Felton, Shirley Wayne, Juggling Jewels, Olsen and Shirley, Three Mandells. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $16,800).
"Hostages" (Para.)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,900).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,500).

WANTED

Assistant editor for newsreel. Must have knowledge basic film technique; ability translate news breaks into visual story. Do quick research. Write commentary with news punch. Draft exempt. Man only. Good opportunity for one capable and assuming responsibilities. Advance rapidly. Write full qualifications. Box 226, MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

'Cheer' Continues to Pace Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 16.—For the second week "Thousands Cheer" leads grosses here, with an estimated $22,000, after a strong $26,000 in the first week, playing the Midland. The Tower, with Willie Howard and "Calling Dr. Death," is drawing $12,000 for second place. All theatres but the Tower have holdovers. Weather has been wintry.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 12-13:

"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 5 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average, 5 days, $4,000)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average, $14,000)
"Riding High" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average, $11,000)
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,200. (Average, $10,000)
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage: Willie Howard and Revue. Gross: $12,000. (Average, $9,400)
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 5 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average, 5 days, $4,200)
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 5 days, 2nd week. Gross: $1,100. (Average, 5 days, $1,035)

'Diary' $9,500 Over Par in Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Jan. 16.—"Guadalcanal Diary" was way out in front this week with a tremendous weekend and was heading toward a $27,000 take. The Ritz Brothers proved the big drawing card, at the Palace, where, with "Dangerous Blondes" on the screen, the estimated results are close to $25,000. Post holiday business generally is slow, both downtown and in the suburban areas.

Estimated receipts for week ending Jan. 12:

"Old Acquaintance" (Warner)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $8,500).
"Guadalcanal Diary" (20th-Fox)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $17,500).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,000).
"Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,500).
"Dangerous Blondes" (Col.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c and 85c Sundays and holidays), 7 days. On stage: The Ritz Brothers and vaudeville. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $17,500).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN — (1,900) (40c-60c) 2nd week. 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,500).

Baiano Due Here

Sol Baiano, Warner's West Coast talent scout, is due in New York today or tomorrow to look over talent possibilities lined up by Marjorie Morrow, Eastern talent head, and her assistant, Zelma Brookov. Baiano will be here for three weeks. He will also be assisted by Radie Harris, who will join the department in New York on a temporary assignment today.

Asness Joins Warners

George Asness, writer-producer now with station WNYC, New York, has been signed by Warners and will leave for the Coast next month to join the studio publicity staff.

'Rosie' Given Sweet $14,800 by Toronto

TORONTO, Jan. 16.—"Sweet Rosie O'Grady" at Shea's was leading the parade for an expected $14,800 in its second week, while the second week of "Girl Crazy" at Loew's looked like $11,300. Grosses showed strength all around despite severe cold.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 13:

"This is the Army" (WB)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, move over. Gross: $3,900. (Average: $3,900).
"Destroyer" (Col.)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $13,100. (Average: $12,600).
"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,300. (Average: $10,800).
"Sweet Rosie O'Grady" (20th-Fox)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $12,300).
"Phantom of the Opera" (Univ.)
"Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (Univ.)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days, move over. Gross: $5,600. (Average: $4,600).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,700. (Average: $9,700).

Minneapolis Gives $13,500 to 'Diary'

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 16.—"Guadalcanal Diary" appeared headed for a booming $13,500 gross at the Orpheum here, while "Thousands Cheer" promised $12,000 for its second week at the State.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15:

"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $2,300).
"Son of Dracula" (Univ.)
GOPHER—(998) (35c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,500).
"Lady Takes a Chance" (RKO)
LYRIC—(1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,700. (Average: $5,200).
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
CENTURY — (1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $7,000).
"Guadalcanal Diary" (20th-Fox)
ORPHEUM — (2,800) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $12,000).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.) 4 days
"The Good Fellows" (Para.) 4 days
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with midweek change. Gross: $2,700. (Average, $2,500).

New Haven Gives 'Love' Dual $8,000

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 16.—Business staged a partial comeback although mid-week grosses were not outstanding. "No Time for Love," dualled with "Tornado" at the Paramount, grossed $8,000 and holds for a second week. At the College, the second week of "Thousands Cheer" took $5,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 14:

"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
"Campus Rhythm" (Mono.)
BIJOU—(1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $4,300. (Average, $3,500)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
COLLEGE—(1,565) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average, $3,200)
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
LOEW-POLI—(3,005) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average, $9,300)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Tornado" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average, $6,400)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 5 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,400. (Average, $6,400)

'Whistling', Plus Show Does $22,000 To Lead Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 16.—With holdovers featured in most downtown theatres, the Stanley took an easy lead showing "Whistling in Brooklyn" with a stage show featuring Tony Pastor, promising $22,000 for the week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 11-14:

"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,300. (Average: $9,000).
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-60c) 5 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $9,600).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $20,000).
"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 4th week, moveover after one week at the Penn, one at Warners. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $3,000).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 5 days, 4th week, moveover after two weeks at the Harris. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,200).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
STANLEY—(3,800) (35c-50c-75c) On stage: 6 days of vaudeville, including Tony Pastor's orchestra, Berry Bros., Tim Herbert. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $22,700).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
WARNERS'—(2,000) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover after one week at the Penn. Gross: $8,300. (Average: $8,200).

Indianapolis Gives 'Uncle', Show $15,500

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 16. — "So's Your Uncle" and a stage show at advanced prices will do $15,500 at the Circle this week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 11-13:

"So's Your Uncle" (Univ.)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (50c-65c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $15,500. (Average, $11,000).
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
"You're a Lucky Fellow, Mr. Smith" (Univ.)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $11,200. (Average: $11,500).
"As Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, second week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $11,000).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. second week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).

National Screen Ends Midwest Sales Meet

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Plans for 1944 were revealed to Midwest managers of National Screen service in a two-day meeting concluded here at the weekend. George Dembow, vice-president in charge of sales from New York, presided. Managers from Minnesota, Des Moines, Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Kansas City and Indianapolis were present.

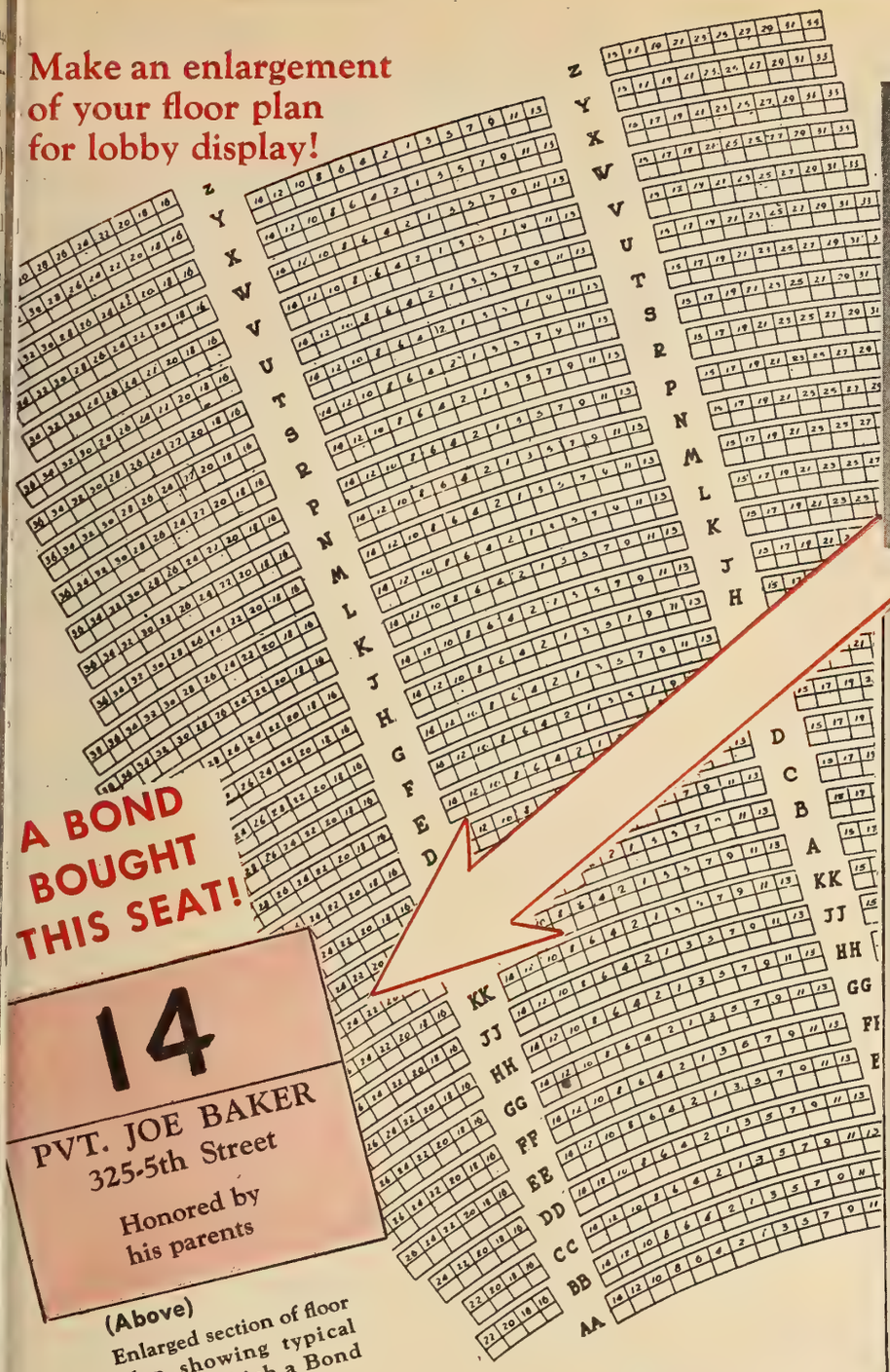
Miss McEvoy Promoted

Dorothea Lee McEvoy has been promoted from editor of *Screen Guide* to executive editor of *Screen Guide* and *Stardom*, published by Guide Magazines. Her previous post has been taken over by Janet Graves, heretofore *Stardom* editor, and the latter assignment has been given to Virginia Williams, formerly of the *Chicago American*.

Herb Berg an Editor

First issue of United Artists' sales departments' house publication, "The New United Action," made its appearance over the weekend. It will appear twice monthly. Herb Berg is editor.

Make an enlargement of your floor plan for lobby display!



A BOND BOUGHT THIS SEAT!

14

PVT. JOE BAKER
325-5th Street

Honored by his parents

(Above)
Enlarged section of floor plan showing typical seat for which a Bond has been bought!



LOCAL BOY GETS HIS NAME IN YOUR LOBBY!

Every Seat a Bond Sale in honor of a lad in the Service!

★

It's a sure-fire showmanship stunt!

★

SEE FULL DETAILS IN THE BIG CAMPAIGN BOOK!



HAVE YOU GOT THE 4TH WAR LOAN CAMPAIGN BOOK?
If not, wire us COLLECT

A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT!

The idea behind the new War Loan Drive has excited the imagination of showmen throughout the nation. A big job to be done—and this idea will do it! No time to lose! Our attack begins January 15th. Our lads are doing their share for us! Let's all back the attack!

4TH WAR LOAN

U. S. Weighs Checkup On Ticket Sales

(Continued from page 1)

reports of tax evasions, but it could not be learned whether these reports had any relation to complaints by distributors of checking difficulties on percentage pictures.

It was said at the Internal Revenue Bureau that the control of tickets is within the jurisdiction of the Bureau, under its general authority to collect the taxes imposed by Congress and to prevent evasions.

Consideration of the ticket licensing proposal, however, has not progressed to the point where any of the details of such a course have been worked out, it was said today at the Internal Revenue Bureau.

Licensing Still Discussed

Whether all ticket printers would be licensed or only those who handle the bulk of the ticket business is one of the details which would have to be decided after it is determined to require licenses, a matter which is still in the discussion stage, it was said. However, it was indicated that in all probability any printer desiring to produce theatre tickets would be given the necessary permission, since the question is not one of regulating printers, but of maintaining surveillance over admissions.

A licensing plan for printers would be of no benefit to distributors desiring to check on the performance of percentage pictures, it was said, because of the law prohibiting the disclosure of tax records to private persons. Thousands of concerns furnish information regarding production and sales so that the Bureau may keep a watch on taxable items, but the information in such returns is never divulged.

Coplan Replaces Carr For U. A. in London

(Continued from page 1)

director for Great Britain is appointed. He will leave Toronto in two weeks for London and meanwhile will continue to hold his title of Canadian director, Edward C. Raftery, U.A. president, disclosed at the weekend

Carr joined United Artists when its first London office was opened about 1919. He subsequently became joint managing director, sharing the post with George Archibald and, when the latter resigned to join the films division of the British Ministry of Information early in the present war, Carr was named managing director.

Coplan was general manager for U. A. in Canada for many years and recently was made vice-president and a director of United Artists Corp. of Canada.

Name Variety Directors

BOSTON, Jan. 16.—William Horan, branch manager of the local Warner Bros. exchange; Max Levinson of the Levinson Circuit, and Abe Yarchin, motion picture insurance agent, have been named directors of the local Variety club, succeeding Norman Ayers and Eddie Morey, who have moved to New York, and Joseph Levinson, who recently died.

Films Seen in Post-War State Department Unit

(Continued from page 1)

for American business, to be embarked upon as soon as the smoke of battle clears. It became known late last week that Commerce Department officials have been sitting in on some of the State Department discussions on post-war plans, which lie more or less along the lines on which such men as Nathan D. Golden, chief of the motion picture unit of the Commerce Department, has been working for years.

Framework Nearly Ready

The framework of the new State Department organization is expected to be revealed almost immediately, although it was indicated that the development of the motion picture set-up has not yet progressed to the point where it can be included. There is a possibility, however, that the film activities may be taken out of the Division of International Communications, where they are now centered, and brought into a new alignment, staffed by men who will devote themselves to the problems of the several industries which are most prominent in foreign fields. George Canty, recently brought back from South America, is being kept in Washington instead of being sent to Panama, indicating that he and Francis DeWolf may take leading roles in the new arrangement.

For some time, it was learned, the whole world motion picture situation has been under survey in the State Department, with a view to determining exactly how its work touches upon films and how best the problems of the industry, which are expected to be many in the days immediately following the war, can be handled. Much thinking along the same lines also is going on in the Department of Commerce which, after the war, may be vastly expanded, as it was after World War I.

Hopper Urged Preparation

Harold Hopper, chief of the motion picture section of the War Production Board, in a statement from Washington published by MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 3, stressed the necessity of the industry's taking action now in planning for the post-war period.

Hopper disclosed at that time that "Government agencies are giving consideration to the problems of world peace and world trade as they relate to the industry, which, over the years, has proved itself to be the greatest salesman of American goods. . . . Hollywood should be co-operating with these Government agencies. It should maintain adequate representatives of the industry in Washington."

WAC Reports 9,507 Programs to Troops

(Continued from page 1)

Marine Corps personnel and other persons in uniform in combat areas overseas.

The WAC head declared that in 1943 the industry delivered 5,089 prints of 176 features produced during 1943 for release in 1943-44, and 920 prints of 42 pictures produced in 1942 and delivered during the first quarter of 1943. In addition there have been delivered 133 prints of three features not yet generally released. Thus, a total of 218 current features has been turned over to the Army, representing 6,142 prints.

During 1942, 272 current features were delivered, all produced in 1942 or in the closing months of 1942, for a total of 1,436 prints.

Deliveries in London of current features during 1942-43 reached a print total of 677. A grand total of 8,255 deliveries of up-to-date Hollywood products has thus far been made.

Highest December for Film Extras' Wages

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—Although total wage payments to extra players during December were down $45,000 from the November figure, they exceeded those made in any December since the recognition of the Screen Actors Guild, according to a Central Casting Bureau report. There were 27,734 placements at a $352,000 aggregate last month.

The reason for the December drop was the seasonal pre- and post-holiday slump in production.

Selznick in Deal With J. A. Rank

(Continued from page 1)

for loaning Vivien Leigh to star in the Technicolor production of George Bernard Shaw's "Caesar and "Cleopatra." Gabriel Pascal will produce the film for Rank's General Films Distributors, Ltd.

At the same time it was announced that negotiations are in progress for the appearance of Miss Leigh in two additional films to be made in England by Rank's companies.

The deals are in line with Rank's announced plans to obtain Hollywood personalities and producers for films which he will undertake for international markets and aimed particularly at the American market.

Barrington Gain, Rank's financial representative now in New York, is expected here in about a week with the announced intention of discussing deals through which Hollywood stars and independent producers here would undertake commitments for Rank. The plan is to provide a balanced program of films acceptable to this market which would be handled internationally by Rank's companies, including any American affiliate which may be developed.

'Hargrove' Postponed

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Jan. 16.—World premiere of "See Here, Private Hargrove," previously set for the Carolina Theatre here, has been postponed, according to Benn H. Rosenwald, branch manager for M-G-M. The set-back date was attributed to the necessity of remaking several scenes to meet War Department suggestions.

Mullen Says 50% of Mexican Programs Use Home Product

Mexican films now get 50 per cent of all theatre playing time in Mexico and are on the increase in other Latin American countries, it was disclosed here by Joseph G. Mullen, 20th-Fox foreign district manager for Mexico, the Caribbean area, Central America and northern countries in South America. Mullen is at the home office for a visit from Mexico City.

Theatre grosses in his territories have increased from 15 to 50 per cent in some Latin countries because of the war boom, and in Mullen's judgment grosses will probably retain at least 15 per cent of the abnormality after the war. At least six to eight of the top Mexican films in the past year have rolled up larger grosses in his territory than ever before.

Public Tired of War Films

The public is tiring of war pictures, he said, and their absence from theatres playing such films has made a marked difference in box-office receipts. More musicals and light comedy are what the people want, and this is reflected in grosses, Mullen continued.

Mexico alone has been allotted 35,000,000 feet of raw stock film for 1944, an increase of 5,000,000. This was arranged by the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

Columbia is now laying plans for the building of new theatres in its key cities after the war, with two first-run theatres at present being built in Ecuador, he said.

Premiere Circuito Bought

He further stated that recently a group of Mexican bankers who finance Mexican productions had purchased the Premiere Circuito, comprising 23 first and subsequent run houses in Mexico City, which will play Mexican films only.

Russian pctures are being shown in all Latin-American countries with the exception of Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia, with 20-reel Hindu films being shown in Trinidad, and Chinese films in Havana.

Mullen plans to stay here for at least a month before returning to his headquarters in Mexico.

To Drop 'False Plugs' For Marihuana Film

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The Federal Trade Commission yesterday announced that Al. P. Scott, trading as A. P. S. Sales Co., Hollywood, and George A. Hirliman, New York, have agreed to cease and desist from the use of false and misleading advertising in connection with the sale of a marihuana expose film variously titled "Tell Your Children," "Reefer Madness" and "The Burning Question."

The respondents agreed to discontinue representations that the film was based on authentic data obtained from the Bureau of Narcotics of the Treasury Department or that the Bureau cooperated in producing it; that the Bureau or Parent-Teachers Associations have endorsed it; that it is copyrighted, unless such is the fact; and also agree to lease the film only under its original title.

DO NOT REMOVE

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 12 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1944 TEN CENTS

Industry and Nation Start 4th Bond Sale

Premieres, 'Free Movie Days', Rallies Begin

Exhibitors and other industry figures generally jumped the gun yesterday in practically all parts of the country with wide efforts on behalf of the 4th War Loan Drive to sell 11,500,000 bonds—"A Bond For Every Seat"—between today, formal opening of the campaign, and Feb. 15.

Reports from MOTION PICTURE DAILY correspondents disclose a wide variety of industry bond-selling methods, with "Free Movie Day," set for various dates through different territories, "War Bond Premieres" and local rallies featuring Hollywood stars, the three main objectives.

In some sections entertainers stationed at military camps have been pressed into service. Specially equipped

(*Continued on page* 30)

KRS Refuses Films To 25 ABC Houses

LONDON, Jan. 13. — The Kinematograph Renters' Society has refused to book product at 25 of the 40 theatres acquired by Associated British Cinemas' from W. G. Elcock's Mayfair Circuit, claiming that renters' deals with ABC provides for booking product to existing ABC lessees only and not to additional theatres.

It is claimed that it would be a breach of relations with distributors if they were to provide these additional ABC theatres with product. As a result, the houses will revert to

(*Continued on page* 30)

Quake Closes All Argentine Theatres

The earthquake that wrecked San Juan, Argentina, and killed several hundred, caused the government to close all theatres, and other amusement places throughout the country.

Up until a late hour yesterday industry officials here had not been informed of damage to industry property or injury to personnel.

See Film Division In New OTC Set-up Of U.S. State Dept.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Interests of the film and radio industries abroad after the war may be protected by the State Department through a motion picture and radio division in the new Office of Transportation and Communications, it was indicated today by study of the Departmental reorganization announced at the weekend by Secretary Cordell Hull.

As previously indicated by Department officials, no specific provision was made for films in the new setup, pending the perfection of plans which had

(*Continued on page* 31)

OWI to Seek Wider Use of Battle Film

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Representatives of 24 national civic organizations have been invited to meet here Wednesday and Thursday in joint conference with the National 16 mm motion picture advisory and policy committee of the Office of War Information and state and local war film coordinators, war-film distributors and Government officials, it was announced

(*Continued on page* 31)

Allied Board Meeting Is Set for Feb. 2-3

Washington, Jan. 17.—Allied's board of directors will hold their annual meeting here Feb. 2-3, with election of officers for the coming year one of the major subjects. Whether present officers are to be reelected without contest will probably be decided within the next few days, when returns are in from all organizations which were queried on the matter.

Television Figures In Rank's Plans for American Campaign

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 17.—J. Arthur Rank today disclosed in an interview here with MOTION PICTURE DAILY that he has held discussions with the National Broadcasting Company of New York with an eye to using television previews of British films as part of a campaign to familiarize American audiences with his product.

Rank, earlier in the interview, clari-

(*Continued on page* 31)

$31,475,338 All-Time Warner Film Inventory

Warner Bros.' film inventory is at an all-time high, running around $31,475,338 at the last count, some $7,000,000 above the $24,438,286 listed one year ago, it is revealed in the company's annual statement sent to stockholders and signed by Harry Warner, president.



Harry Warner

"The increase reflects not only the greater number of completed productions awaiting release, but also higher negatives," said an explantory statement released by Warners here yesterday.

"Consolidated balance sheet of

(*Continued on page* 31)

George Parr Named By Carolina Owners

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Jan. 17.—Theatre owners of North and South Carolina today named as their new president George Parr of Lancaster, S. C., and reelected A. F. Sams, Jr., of Statesville, N. C., Boyd Brown of Winnsboro, S. C., as vice-presidents, and Mrs. Pauline Griffith of Charlotte, secretary-treasurer.

Directors from North Carolina are retiring president Roy Rowe, O. T. Kirby, H. Howell, George Carpenter, Frank Beddingfield, E. L. Hearne, Tom Little, H. F. Kincey, J. Miller and Lyle Wilson. South Carolina directors are H. R. Berry, J. Long and Ben Strozier.

The morning session was devoted to the 4th War Loan Drive, with Si Fabian, Ed Kuykendall, Kincey, R. B. Wilby, Warren Irvin and Roy Smart as speakers. Fabian praised the concerted action and unity of purpose of the nation's 16,000 theatres.

Clark Rejects Distributors' Decree Draft

Amended Proposals to Be Submitted This Week

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—"Final" proposals of the distributors for revision of the consent decree were torn in pieces today in a three and one-half hour session between officials of all five consenting companies and Assistant Attorney-General Tom C. Clark.

The principal provisions which Clark said would be totally inacceptable to the Department were those dealing with cancellations, acquisitions of theatres and arbitration; but there are a few points of lesser importance on which the Department is insisting on changes.

Coming to Washington for a meeting at which they hoped Department officials would say their proposals

(*Continued on page* 31)

Chicago Theatres Balk at 'U' Terms

CHICAGO, Jan. 17.——Many local independent exhibitors, taking exception to sales terms currently being asked by Universal, are refusing to sign contracts for the company's 1943-44 product, it was learned here recently. No accurate estimate of the number of theatres involved in this "buyers' strike" could be obtained but it is known that a leading independent buy-

(*Continued on page* 31)

Pickford Will Launch a Ship

Baltimore, Jan. 17.—Mary Pickford, chairman of the women's division of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, will sponsor a Liberty ship to be launched here Saturday at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyards.

Miss Pickford will arrive in Baltimore after making a nationwide broadcast from the White House to women of America in an appeal for the campaign to help stamp out paralysis. After the launching, she will be guest at a reception to be given by the Maryland paralysis chapter.

Personal Mention

JACK COHN, Columbia vice-president; ABE SCHNEIDER, treasurer; JOSEPH MCCONVILLE, foreign sales manager, and LEO JAFFE, SCHNEIDER'S assistant, returned to New York yesterday from studio conferences.

•

CAPT. MONROE GREENTHAL of the Army's Industrial Service Division was in New York yesterday from Washington.

•

WOLFE COHEN, Canadian district manager for Warner's, has returned to Toronto from four days in Montreal.

•

FRANK MORIN, manager of Warner's Regal, Hartford, celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary last Friday.

•

DAVID HARRIS has resigned from the circulation department of Quigley Publications.

•

RED KANN, vice-president of Quigley Publications, and MRS. KANN will leave for Hollywood Friday.

•

JACK PARVER, manager of the Eastwood, East Hartford, Conn., is in New York for a vacation.

•

JACK SHEA of the Shea circuit returned yesterday after a vacation in New Hampshire.

•

TED SCHLANGER, Philadelphia Warner Theatres zone manager, was in New York yesterday.

•

FRANK MEADOW, United Artists salesman in Rochester and Syracuse, has been inducted into the Army.

•

EARL WRIGHT, 20th-Fox salesman in New Haven, is home with a sprained ankle.

•

JOHN DOMBI, former owner of the Brooklawn, Fairfield, Conn., has arrived in Northern Ireland.

•

CHRIST POPE, Schine Theatres film booker in Washington, is in Philadelphia on business.

•

W. M. COTTON, president of Ideal Women's Group, returned to New York yesterday from Hollywood.

•

SAM GOLDSTEIN, president of Commonwealth Pictures, is en route to the Coast on company business.

•

GEORGE ETTINGER, Columbia exploiteer, was in Hartford last week.

•

BEN MELNIKER of M-G-M's legal department will be married Feb. 20.

•

WALLY ALLEN, 20th-Fox exploiteer, is visiting in Buffalo.

•

PHIL ENGEL, United Artists exploiteer, is in Buffalo.

•

SAM JAFFEE, 20th-Fox producer, arrived from Hollywood yesterday.

(*More Personals on Page 27*)

Operators Nominate 5 Slates in Cleanup

CHICAGO, Jan. 17.—Following a rank-and-file revolt last month in which all officers of the M. P. Operators' union, Local 110, were ousted for alleged conspiracy with the Capone gang to defraud members of $5,000,000 in wages, members have nominated several candidates for a new leadership, including five for president.

Placed in the field to head the union, with elections set for Feb. 3, were Peter Bridges, Glenn Sweeney, George LeRoy, James Gorman and Smith King. Other nominations included Herman Posnier, Frank Galluzzo, Dallas Kephart, John Mulvaney, Everett Ryan and Edward Halliday for vice-president; Ora Bebb, Charles Hall and Clarence Jalas for secretary-treasurer; Herman Goldberg, Roy McCracken, Hugo Krause, Joe Britsk, Gene Atkinson and Harry Regan for business agent.

Walsh Presides

The session was conducted by James F. Walsh, international president of the IATSE, who ousted the old officers. He announced that he will remain here in control of the local until he is satisfied that the new officers are equipped to handle its affairs.

As a result of the alleged fraud the union has a recovery suit pending against six former officers and 12 motion picture corporations and circuits.

'Plasma Premiere' in Cincinnati Jan. 26

CINCINNATI, Jan. 17.—A "plasma premiere" will be held in Keith's here on Jan. 26, following the last regular show of United Artists' "Three Russian Girls," which has its local opening that day. It will be open to those who have contributed to the Red Cross Blood Bank. Red Cross officials in Washington, envisioning such premieres throughout the country, are viewing the experiment with interest, it is said.

The stunt was devised by Paul Lazarus' UA home office publicity department and worked out at the theatre by Solly Schwartz, Keith's Western zone head; Col. A. Freudenfeld, zone head of operations, and A. V. Dinerman, local publicist, under Harry Mandel of the home office.

Hirliman South on Franchise Deals

George A. Hirliman, president of Film Classics, is now in Charlotte conducting the first of a series of southern regional conferences. He will consummate franchises for the entire South, including Atlanta, New Orleans and Memphis territories.

The conferences will necessitate postponement of Hirliman's trip to the Coast to initiate production plans. This is now scheduled for Feb. 11, when he will arrange for studio space, technical crew and writers.

Carole Lombard Gets Posthumous Award

Hollywood, Jan. 17—When the S. S. Carole Lombard, Liberty ship named for the actress who lost her life in an airplane crash while touring to boost war bond sales, rushed down the ways in San Pedro harbor over the weekend it bore a "Distinguished Service Award" certificate framed in the wheelhouse.

The award was presented by Howard D. Mills, Western representative of the U. S. Treasury, in recognition of Miss Lombard's patriotic endeavors. Irene Dunne broke the traditional bottle across the ship's bow. Mills, Louis B. Mayer and John Carmody, of the U. S. Maritime Commission, were the speakers.

200 at MGM Capital Exhibitor Meeting

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Over 200 exhibitors and Government officials will attend a luncheon-meeting tomorrow in the Hotel Statler here, at which the principal speakers will be William F. Rodgers, vice-president of Loew's, and Postmaster-General Frank Walker. M-G-M will be host.

Among others scheduled to be present are Frank Hornig, president of the MPTO of Maryland; A. Julian Brylawski, president of the MPTO of the District of Columbia; W. F. Crockett, president of the MPTO of Virginia; John J. Payette, zone manager, Warner Theatres; Abram F. Myers, Allied State's general counsel; Stanton Griffis, chief of the OWI film bureau; Ted Gamble, War Finance Director; District Commissioner J. Russell Young and Carter Barron, Loew's Theatres' Eastern division manager.

From M-G-M there will be H. M. Ritchey, exhibitor contact; Rudolph Berger, district sales manager; John S. Allen, branch manager; Joseph Kronman, Washington office manager, and Phil Bobys, Jack Goldberg, Fred Rippingale, Harry Cohen, Frank Scully, salesmen, and Tom Baldridge, exploiteer.

Stockholders to Act Today on Cohn Rises

A Columbia stockholders' meeting, originally scheduled for yesterday, will be held this morning instead at the home office. Stockholders will be asked to vote on proposals for 33⅓ per cent increases in the salaries of Harry Cohn, president, and Jack Cohn, executive vice-president. If granted, the rises will be effective for two years and will be retroactive to July 1, 1943.

Also before the stockholders will be a proposal to approve an option taken by A. Schneider, vice-president and treasurer, on Sept. 15, 1942, for 7,880 shares of Columbia common stock at $7.62½ per share, exercisable at any time prior to Sept. 14, 1950.

Republic Winds up Sales Meet Today

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 17.—Republic President J. R. Grainger presided yesterday at the first session of a two-day sales conference at the company's Hollywood studio.

Western district sales manager Francis Bateman heads a contingent of men from that district, including franchise holder J. T. Sheffield of the Northwest territory, branch manager F. M. Higgins, Seattle; J. H. Sheffield, Portland; Gene Gerbase, Denver; H. C. Fuller, Salt Lake City, and branch managers John Frey, Los Angeles, and Sid Weisbaum, San Francisco.

Herbert J. Yates, Sr., addressed the meeting, outlining Republic's future promotion activities in connection with super deluxe and deluxe productions.

Yesterday Republic feted six SeaBees, representing the West Coast, at a reception at the Hotel Ambassador in connection with the launching of "The Fighting SeaBees," starring John Wayne, Susan Hayward, and Dennis O'Keefe.

PCA Names Friedberg

Producers Corp. of America has appointed William Friedberg its Eastern publicity representative. His first assignment will be "Knickerbocker Holiday," which opens here in February.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

Dorothy LAMOUR - Dick POWELL - Victor MOORE
In
"RIDING HIGH"
A Paramount Picture
IN TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON
TOMMY DORSEY and Band
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
OLIVIA DeHAVILLAND SONNY TUFTS
'GOVERNMENT GIRL'
James Dunn Anne Shirley Jess Barker

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Claudette COLBERT
Fred MacMURRAY
"NO TIME FOR LOVE"
In Person
DON REDMAN
and ORCH.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 194 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac and Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c

Report from UNITED ARTISTS . . . .

This is *not* a "product announcement for 1944", for among all companies United Artists alone knows no formal selling season. Rather, this is a report from the company and its producers setting forth *facts* on productions you will receive during the next months . . facts on pictures finished, pictures cutting, pictures ready to roll.

For today United Artists is making that sort of progress that will soon entitle it to its rightful place at the head of the industry. It is our firm belief that this can best be achieved by consistency of product, consistency of both quality and release. Toward this we are striving. . . .

It is not necessary for us to make promises or claims. We are able to let the facts speak. You will find no factory-made, production-line pictures among these releases. Each is hand-tailored by its creator-producer, made to the best of his ability for the best box-office results possible.

And we will continue to sell these pictures as they are made — individually. The values of each production will be carefully assayed and it will be sold accordingly. Here, then, is the report from United Artists — to you.

MEMO

It will be ready for special engagements early this Spring.
D.O.S.

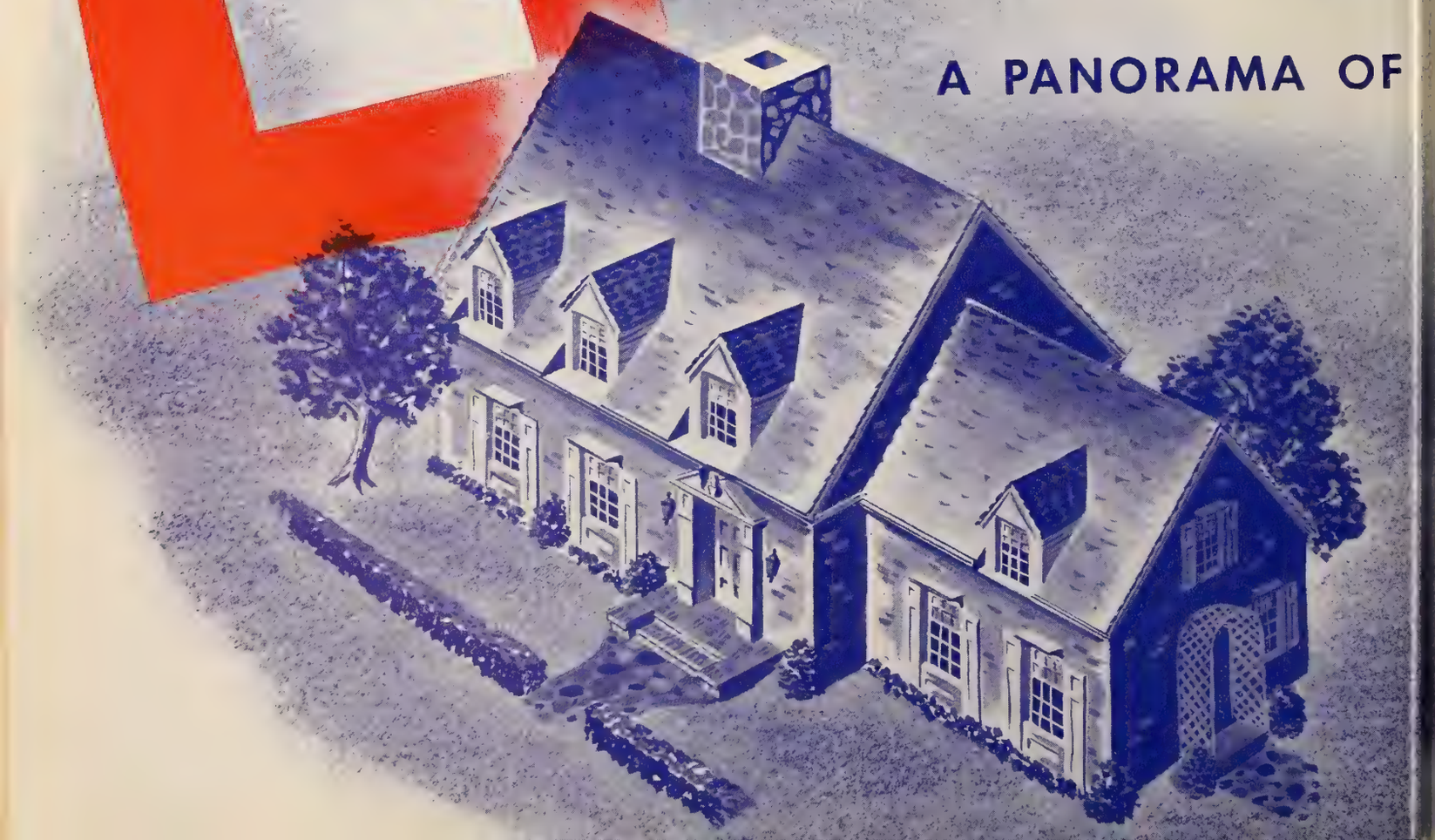
HIS FIRST SINCE "GONE

("Winner 1940

DAVID O.

★SINCE YOU

A PANORAMA OF



WITH THE WIND" AND "REBECCA"!

National Critics Poll —Academy Award, Best Picture of The Year")

("Winner 1941 National Critics Poll—
Academy Award, Best Picture of The Year")

SELZNICK'S

WENT AWAY

THE HOME FRONT

starring

CLAUDETTE COLBERT ★ JOSEPH COTTEN ★ JENNIFER JONES ★ SHIRLEY TEMPLE

MONTY WOOLLEY ★ LIONEL BARRYMORE ★ ROBERT WALKER

Suggested by the book of Margaret Buell Wilder

Directed by JOHN CROMWELL

PRODUCED BY VANGUARD FILMS INC.

A SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

UNITED ARTISTS CORP.

NEW YORK, N.Y.

FIGURES FOR FIRST TWENTY-FIVE ENGAGEMENTS GREAT. THEY CONFIRM EVERYTHING WE HOPED FOR PICTURE'S BOXOFFICE POWER

SAMUEL BRONSTON



READY NOW! and with plenty of "Jack" in it!

JACK LONDON

SAMUEL BRONSTON *presents* MICHAEL O'SHEA · SUSAN HAYWARD

JACK LONDON

with

OSA MASSEN • HARRY DAVENPORT • FRANK CRAVEN
VIRGINIA MAYO • RALPH MORGAN • LOUISE BEAVERS

Screenplay by ERNEST PASCAL

Directed by ALFRED SANTELL

Produced by

SAMUEL BRONSTON

"Three Russian Girls"

starring **ANNA STEN · KENT SMITH**

with **Mimi Forsythe · Alexander Granach**

Cathy Frye · Paul Guilfoyle · Kane Richmond

Adaptation by Maurice Clark and Victor Trivas
Based upon photoplay "The Girl From Leningrad"
Screen play by Aben Kandel and Dan James

A **GREGOR RABINOVITCH** Production

Associate Producer **EUGENE FRENKE**
Directed by Fedor Ozep and Henry Kesler



Produced by

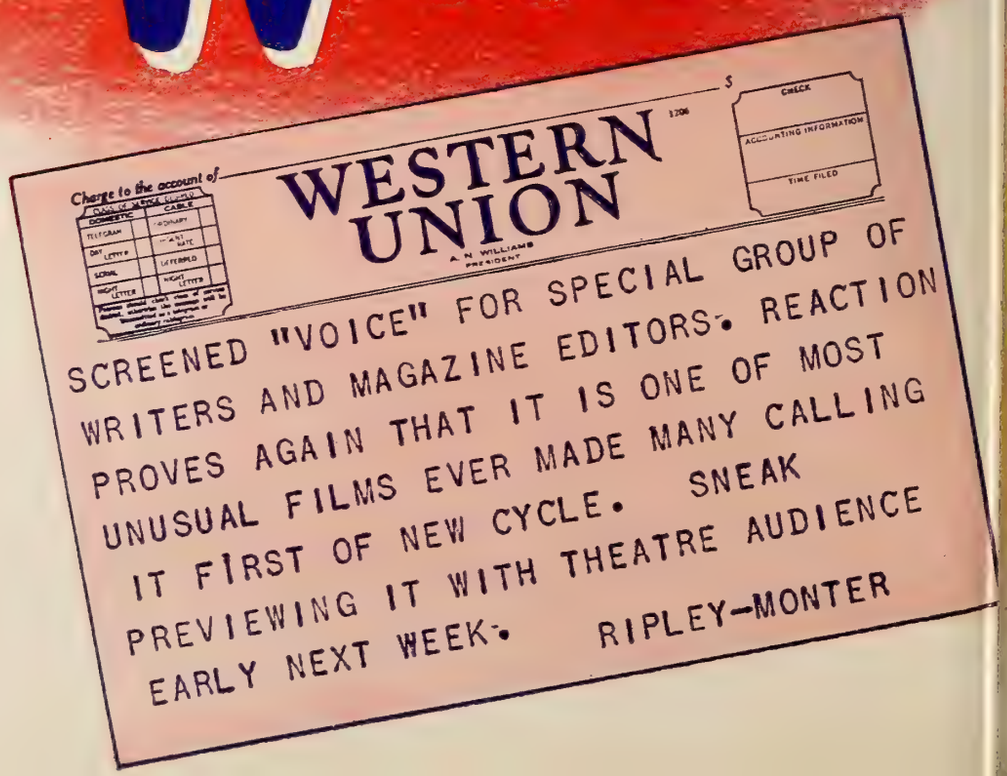
R-F PRODUCTIONS

UA



They're whispering about it...
talking about it...shouting
about it. It's *that* different—
STRANGE and DIFFERENT!

Voice in the Wind



Produced by
RIPLEY-MONTER

People are talking about her, too!

"THE Woman OF THE TOWN"



Starring

Claire TREVOR
Albert DEKKER

with

Barry Sullivan • Henry Hull • Porter Hall
Percey Kilbride • Clem Bevans

Directed by
GEORGE ARCHAINBAUD
Screen Play by AEneas MacKenzie

Produced by
HARRY SHERMAN

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

Charge to the account of

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED

DOMESTIC: TELEGRAM, DAY LETTER, SERIAL, NIGHT LETTER

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IN "WOMAN OF THE TOWN" I AM DELIVERING WHAT I BELIEVE IS THE BEST PICTURE I HAVE YET MADE. BE SURE EVERY EXHIBITOR UNDERSTANDS THIS ISN'T "JUST A WESTERN". IT IS A WOMAN'S PICTURE — ALL THE WAY..MADE FOR "A" TIME AND "A" BUSINESS. IF THEY WANT WESTERNS TELL 'EM TO LOOK AT THE NEW HOPALONG CASSIDYS. HARRY SHERMAN



SHE'S BEAUTIFUL...
BEWITCHING...
AND BOX-OFFICE!



The Bridge of San Luis Rey

A ROWLAND V. LEE Production

Starring

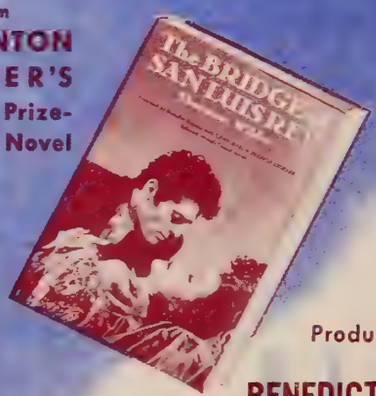
Lynn Bari • Akim Tamiroff • Francis Lederer

with Nazimova • Louis Calhern • Blanche Yurka • Donald Woods

Directed by ROWLAND V. LEE • Screenplay by HOWARD ESTABROOK

Adaptation by Howard Estabrook and Herman Weissman

From
THORNTON WILDER'S
Pulitzer Prize-winning Novel



Produced by
BENEDICT BOGEAUS

WESTERN UNION

HAVE SHIPPED PRINT TO NEW YORK
SO EVERYTHING IS SET TO MEET
EARLY FEBRUARY RELEASE DATE AND
PRE-RELEASE BOOKINGS. SHOWING
PICTURE TO COAST CRITICS THIS WEEK.
BENEDICT BOGEAUS

The Evening News

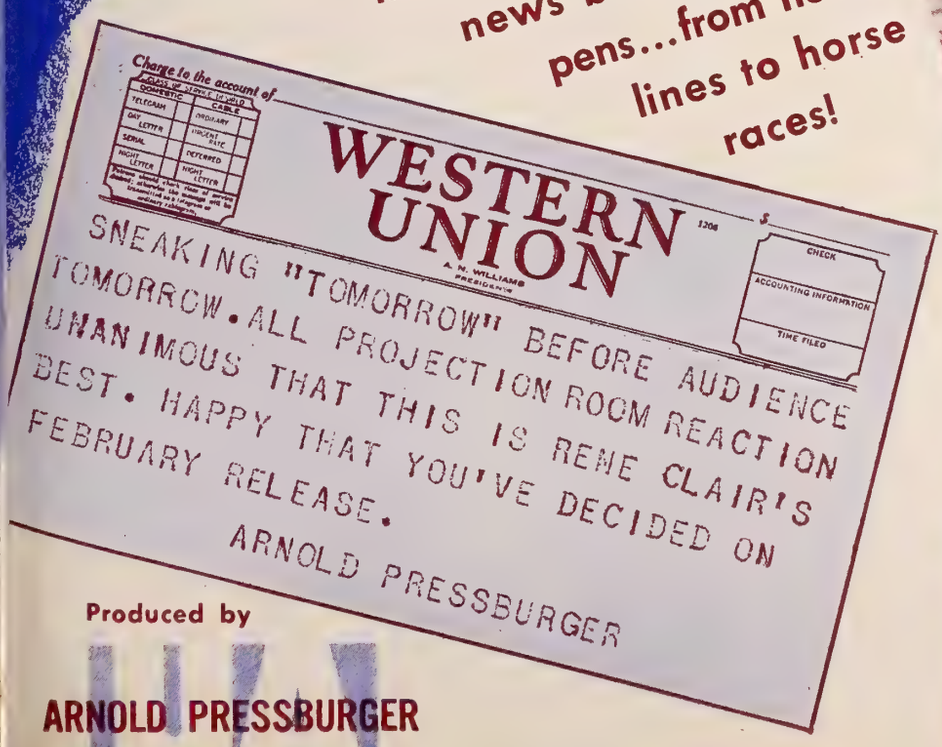
Rene Clair's

IT HAPPENED TOMORROW

Newspaper man makes a million on five long-shots...

The gay, intriguing idea back of it... an obscure reporter knows all tomorrow's news before it happens...from headlines to horse races!





Produced by

ARNOLD PRESSBURGER

starring

DICK POWELL • LINDA DARNELL • JACK OAKIE
EDDIE ACUFF • GEORGE CHANDLER
JACK GARDNER • SIG RUMAN
EDGAR KENNEDY • Directed by Rene Clair
Screenplay by Dudley Nichols

Sparkling with everything that makes a musical show memorable!

NELSON
EDDY
CHARLES
COBURN
CONSTANCE
DOWLING
in



Knickerbocker HOliday

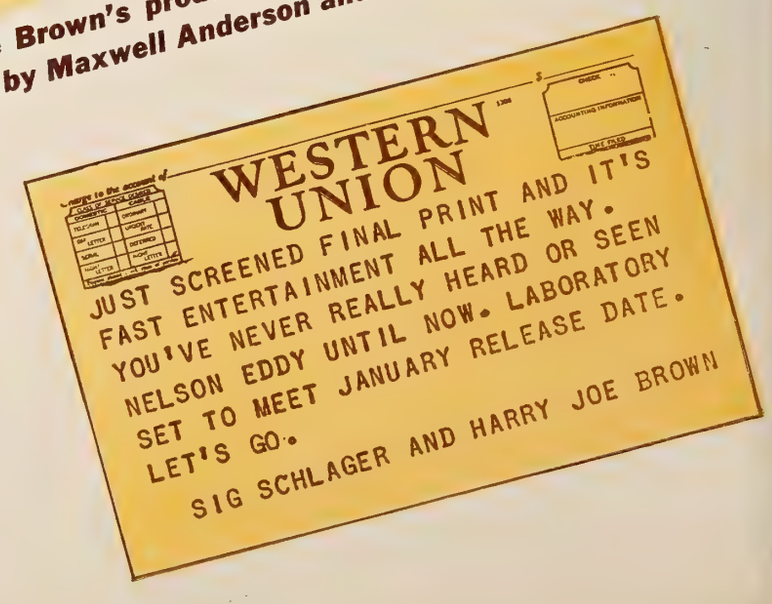
Harry Joe Brown's production of the musical stage hit by Maxwell Anderson and Kurt Weill

with ERNEST COSSART
SHELLEY WINTER · JOHNNY (Scat) DAVIS · OTTO KRUGER
PERCY KILBRIDE · CHESTER CONKLIN · FRITZ FELD
and CARMEN AMAYA AND HER COMPANY

Produced and Directed by
HARRY JOE BROWN

Screen Adaptation by Thomas Lennon
Screenplay by David Boehm and Rowland Leigh
Additional Musical Numbers by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn,
Forman Brown, Werner R. Heyman, Franz Steininger

Produced by
PRODUCER'S CORPORATION OF AMERICA



Like what you've seen so far?

...Now look what's coming up!...



Most bid-for Broadway hit in years

. . . *because* it was a solid two-season sell-out

that the whole country talked about!

Mary Pickford

presents

JUNIOR MISS

From the play
by JEROME CHODOROV
and JOSEPH FIELDS
based on the book
by SALLY BENSON







Produced by

MARY PICKFORD

GREATEST ARRAY OF HEADLINERS EVER IN ONE PICTURE!

SENSATIONS of 1944

starring

ELEANOR POWELL

with

DENNIS O'KEEFE

W. C. FIELDS

SOPHIE TUCKER

MIMI FORSYTHE

HUBERT CASTLE

DOROTHY DONNEGAN

PALLENBERG BEARS

MEL HALL

CHRISTIANI BROS.

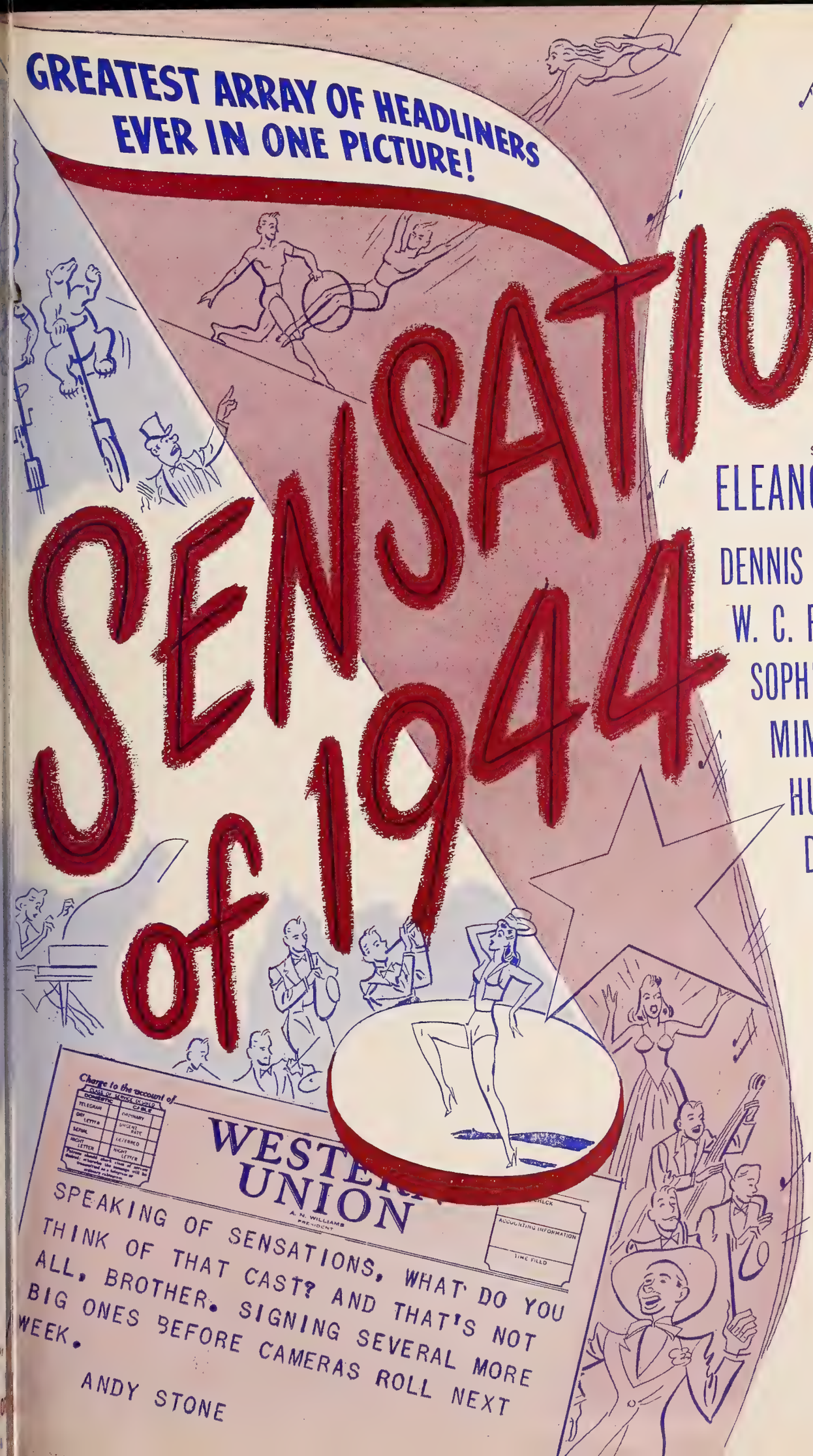
PAT HENNING

CAB CALLOWAY

AND HIS BAND

WOODY HERMAN

AND HIS BAND



Produced by

ANDREW STONE

UA

IT LOOKS BIG...
IT IS BIG!

Won't it look wonderful in lights?

SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD

with EDGAR BERGEN
CHARLIE McCARTHY
BONITA GRANVILLE
W.C. FIELDS

introducing JANE POWELL

introducing ERIC SINCLAIR

SAMMY KAYE and His band

CONDOS BROS.

LIPHAM FOUR

CHUCK FAULKNER and His band

PEGGY O'NEILL

Reginald DENNY

REGIS TOOMEY

ROSE HOBART

WILLIAM CHRISTY









WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

CLOSED DEAL FOR PALM SPRINGS LOCATION WHICH PROVIDES UNUSUAL BACKGROUND FOR BERGEN-MCCARTHY, BONITA GRANVILLE, SAMMY KAYE AND ORCHESTRA, AND SWELLEST NEW TALENT DISCOVERIES SINCE DEANNA DURBIN WHO, INCIDENTALLY, WAS FIRST TO THE SCREEN BY ...ARLIE ROGERS

Directed by S. SYLVAN SIMON



Produced by

CHARLES R. ROGERS

U-I

Its impact rang across the world ...and won it the NOBEL PRIZE!



JULES LEVEY
presents
EUGENE O'NEILL'S
Memorable Drama

The HAIRY APE

Co-starring
WILLIAM BENDIX · SUSAN HAYWARD
(Star of "Guadalcanal Diary" and "Lifeboat")

Directed by ALFRED SANTELL

Screenplay by
HOWARD (HUMAN COMEDY) ESTABROOK
and ROBERT (BATAAN) ANDREWS

Produced by
JULES LEVEY

U.A.

Charge to the account of _____ $ _____

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

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ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

TIME FILED

TESTS OF BENDIX AS STOKE-HOLE HERO SENSATIONAL. ALL THE RAVES HE'S GOTTEN UP TO NOW WILL PALE BY COMPARISON. COMPLETED SCRIPT PACKS TERRIFIC HEART INTEREST AND ACTION. SHOOTING STARTS DECEMBER 27TH.

JULES LEVEY.

Chekov's Famous Novel

OF LOVE THAT HID BEHIND AN UNSOLVED CRIME!

THE Moon Is Their Mistress

(tentative title)



starring

GEORGE SANDERS • LINDA DARNELL

EDWARD EVERETT HORTON

Directed by DOUGLAS SIRK

a SEYMOUR NEBENZAL production



Charge to the account of

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS

CHECK

TIME FILED

CAMERAS ROLL NEXT WEEK. GEORGE SANDERS, LINDA DARNELL EXCITED OVER ROLES. CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THIS TO BE AMONG BIGGEST OF 1944. IT IS ALREADY ONE OF MOST TALKED-ABOUT PRODUCTIONS IN HOLLYWOOD HISTORY.

SEYMOUR NEBENZAL

Produced by

ANGELUS PRODUCTIONS

UA

SOL LESSER

who this year gave you

STAGE DOOR CANTEEN

will present as his next production

Three's A Family

Produced by
SOL LESSER



The John Golden stage hit that's still a sell-out after eight solid months on Broadway!

Charge to the account of

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

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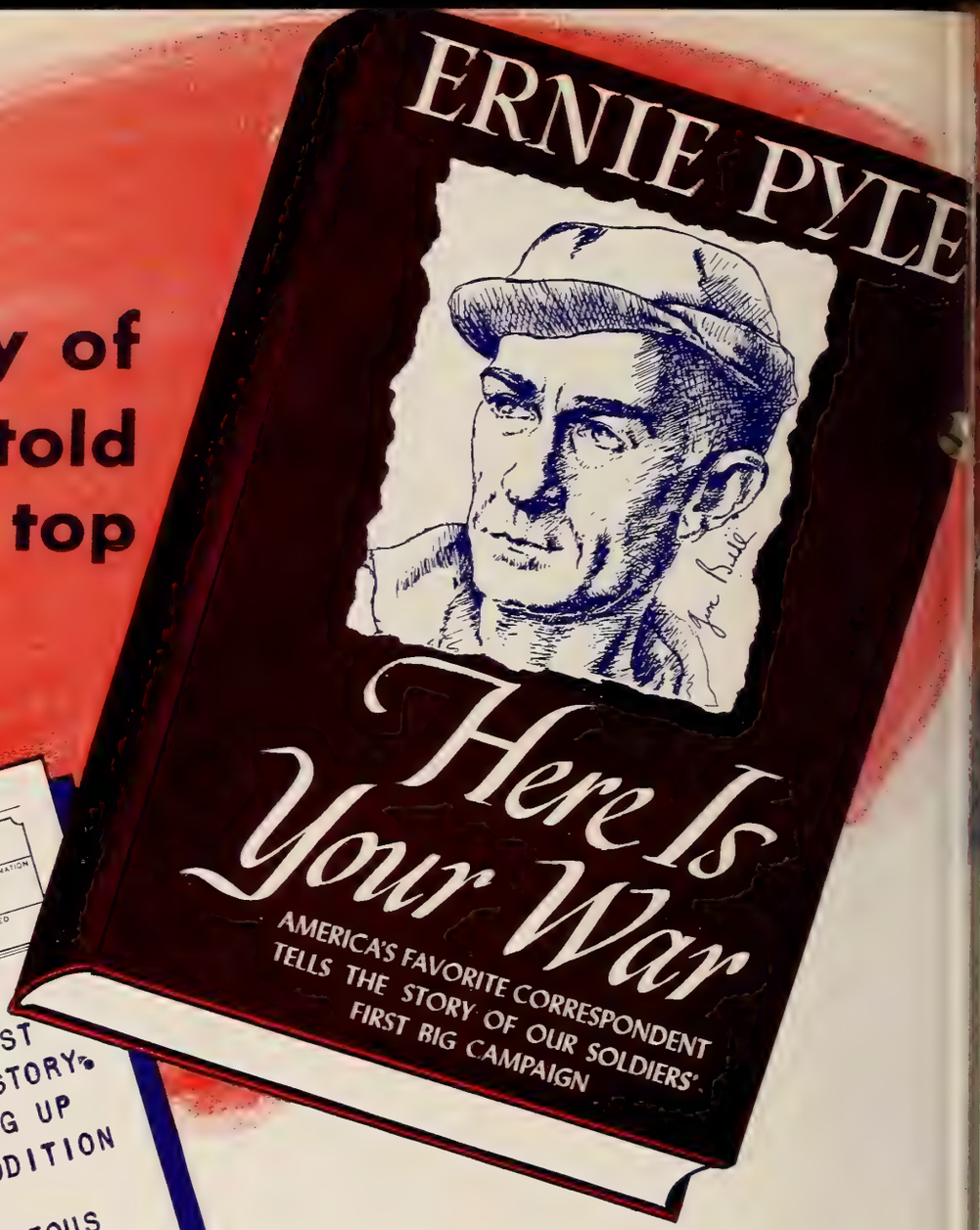
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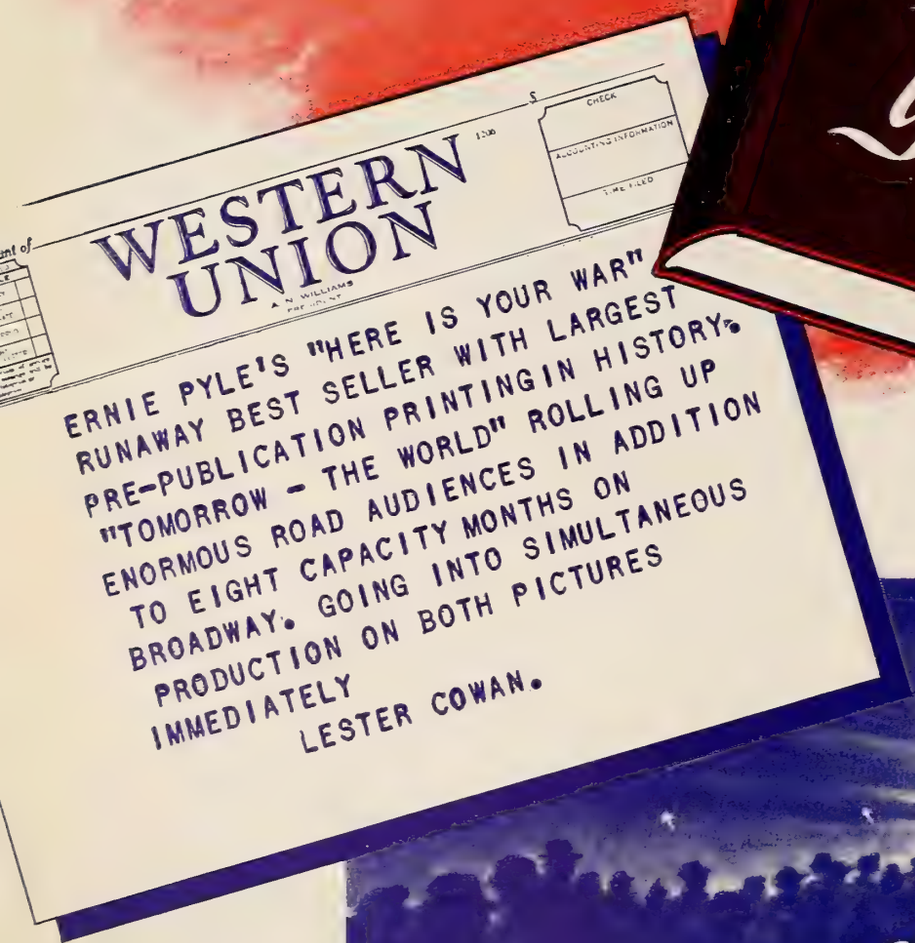
TIME FILED

YOU CAN TELL EXHIBITORS THAT MY FIRST PICTURE SINCE "STAGE DOOR CANTEEN" WILL BE EQUALLY KEYED TO TODAY'S TASTES. TIME MAGAZINE CALLS THE PLAY "REALLY HILARIOUS" AND THAT DESCRIBES IT.

SOL LESSER

The top story of our soldiers-told by the war's top story-teller!







BROADWAY'S ACE DRAMATIC HIT!

TOMORROW -THE WORLD

Produced by
LESTER COWAN

"Truly amazing
The must of the season
—N. Y. WORLD TELEGRAM



Most Famous of All Bedlam Farces - and No Wonder!

UP IN MABEL'S ROOM

Based on the Stage Success
"UP IN MABEL'S ROOM"
by Otto Harbach & Wilson Collison
Screen Adaptation by Tom Reed
Directed by
ALLAN DWAN

starring

MARJORIE REYNOLDS ★ DENNIS O'KEEFE

GAIL PATRICK ★ MISCHA AUER

CHARLOTTE GREENWOOD

with

LEE BOWMAN ★ JOHN HUBBARD ★ JANET LAMBERT

and

BINNIE BARNES

Produced by
EDWARD SMALL

Charge to the account of

WESTERN UNION

1206

$

CHECK

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

TIME FILED

CLEARING TWO SPECIAL STAGES FOR FIRST SCENES OF FUNNIEST SCRIPT EVER WRITTEN IN HOLLYWOOD. EXPECT TO ADD ONE MORE BIG STAR NAME WITHIN FEW DAYS.

EDWARD SMALL

...And as if all that wasn't enough...Look!

Hunt



Stromberg

whose record of 28 Box-Office Champions has won him Fame's title of

THE INDUSTRY'S NUMBER 1 PRODUCER

announces as his next production . . .

Anne Baxter

(by arrangement with 20th Century-Fox Film Corp.)

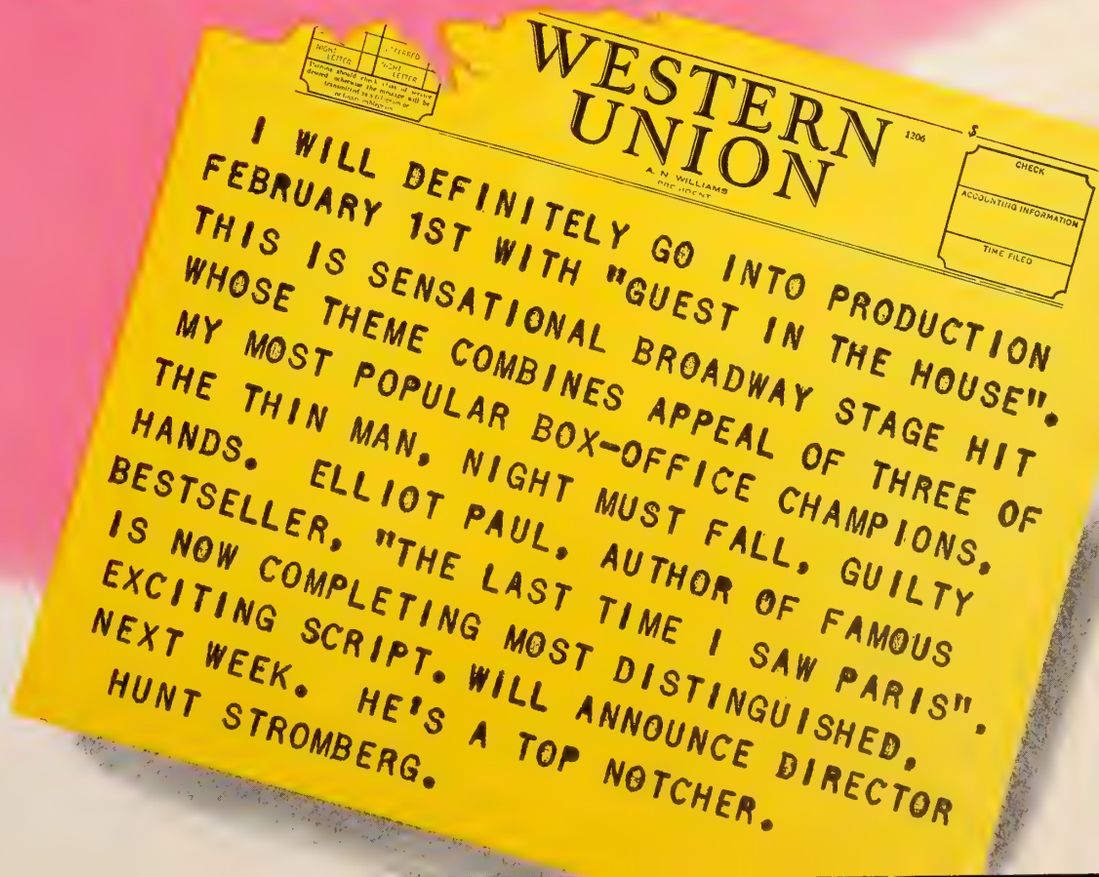
in

"GUEST IN THE HOUSE"

with a notable cast

Screenplay by
ELLIOT PAUL

Based on the Broadway Hit which the New York Critics called "The Year's Most Unusual Play"



Produced by
HUNT STROMBERG

U-A

Important Last-Minute Flash From the Cagneys!

WESTERN UNION

1206

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

CHECK

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

TIME FILED

FOR VICTORY BUY WAR BONDS TODAY

Charge to the account of

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED			
DOMESTIC		CABLE	
TELEGRAM		ORDINARY	
DAY LETTER		URGENT RATE	
SERIAL		DEFERRED	
NIGHT LETTER		NIGHT LETTER	

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

WORK HAS STARTED ON STORY OF "PORT ROYAL"
PLANNED AS STARRING VEHICLE FOR JAMES
CAGNEY AND WHICH WILL BE A TECHNICOLOR PANORAMA OF ALL
FAMOUS PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN. WRITERS SOON WILL BE
ASSIGNED TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE HILARIOUS THORNE SMITH
COMEDY "THE STRAY LAMB" IN WHICH OUTSTANDING MALE
SCREEN COMEDIAN WILL BE STARRED.

WILLIAM CAGNEY

That's the report of

UNITED ARTISTS

for Now —

and for the Future!

Personal Mention

(Other Personals on page 2)

ROY HAINES and JULES LAPIDUS, Warner sales executives, are back from tours of their territories in Los Angeles.

•

RUTH WEISBERG of Warner's yesterday was presented with a ribbon award by the American Women's Volunteer Services for having completed 250 hours of service in that organization's war work.

•

HENRY H. MARTIN, formerly a Universal salesman in Oklahoma City and now in the U. S. Navy, has been accepted for submarine service.

•

DOLORES WISTLER of M-G-M's office in Des Moines, has resigned to be married to CORPORAL BERNARD HINTZ in Los Angeles.

•

LLOYD H. BRIDGHAM, owner of the Broadway, Dover, N. H., and MRS. BRIDGHAM, are the parents of a boy, born Jan. 16.

•

FLOYD RUMFORD, operator of the Kineto Theatre, Forest, Ontario, has been re-elected mayor of that town.

•

HARRY ROSENQUEST of Warner Theatres left New York yesterday for Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

•

LOU ELMAN, RKO manager in Des Moines, has returned to his desk following a week's illness.

•

DIANA HIRSHTRITT, cashier at the New Haven RKO exchange, is ill with the flu.

SeaBees Officials Hosted by Republic

SeaBees from 26 states, on leave after service in the Mediterranean and Pacific were among the guests at a reception at the Hotel Astor here yesterday in connection with the launching of Republic's "The Fighting Sea Bees." Earlier, Mayor LaGuardia presented an identification bracelet to Francis A. Lombardo, Chief Boatswain's Mate in the U. S. Naval Construction Battalion, at City Hall with several SeaBee officials in attendance. There was also a luncheon at the Stork Club feting several high-ranking Naval officers, and a special screening of the film at the Preview Theatre here.

Among industry people who attended the Astor reception were Walter Vincent, Walter Titus, Steve Edwards, Evelyn Koleman, Beatrice Ross, G. C. Schaefer, C. R. Jones, Sam Seletsky, Ray Middleton, Smiley Burnette, Kay Aldrich and representatives of the trade press, daily newspapers, syndicates and magazines.

'Lady' Trade Showing

Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" will be trade shown at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 3 at the Normandie here and at 2:30 p.m. at the Ambassador in Los Angeles on the same date, Neil Agnew, Paramount general sales manager, announced today. Trade showings in all other exchanges centers throughout the country will be held Feb. 28.

Review

"Broadway Rhythm"

(M-G-M)

Hollywood, Jan. 17

IN full conformity with the tradition which calls for an M-G-M picture under the title of "Broadway Rhythm"—to tell a tale of show business on the Big Street while standouts in the several fields of footlight entertainment perform their diversified feats of skill and artistry—the 1944 edition is packed from first to last of its 117 minutes with material pleasant to look at in Technicolor, and listen to against a background of Tommy Dorsey's music. Produced by Jack Cummings and directed by Roy Del Ruth with the vast resources of M-G-M's talent supply at their disposal, the film is a screen-filling, time-killing, money-making enterprise by all the standards that apply.

George Murphy, portraying a successful Broadway producer, but taking time out to sing on occasion and to dance a little, shares the romantic assignment with Ginny Simms, portraying a Hollywood film star temporarily in New York and swinging in her own effective way a number of pleasant songs. Charles Winninger, playing Murphy's father, and Gloria De Haven, as his sister, round out the cast of principals in the background story, which has to do with the father's surreptitious staging of a show against his son's wishes. Winninger has one of his best opportunities to date in the assignment and makes the most of it.

Appended from, ornamental to and stimulatingly identified with the background story—which was scripted by Dorothy Kingsley and Harry Clork from a story by Jack McGowan, based on the Jerome Kern-Oscar Hammerstein II production of "Very Warm for May"—are, among other inducements to pleasure, the following:

Lena Horne, dancing and singing "Brazilian Boogie" in a dazzling sequence, singing "Solid Potato Salad" in another: Hazel Scott, closeupped at the keyboard, doing impossible things with a piano while looking and laughing merrily in all directions; the Ross Sisters, three young women who open with swing-singing and melt into a series of contortionisms that might have kept vaudeville from dying if they'd been born into it while the Orpheum Circuit was still extant; Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, as valet to Murphy, clicking with line after line of dialogue in his ablest radio manner, plus visibility; Tommy Dorsey and band, also Tommy Dorsey in a trombone duet with Winninger executing a trick number called "I Love Corny Music" which stopped the show at the preview, taking the juniors present for a rhythmic ride at appropriate intervals; "Somebody Loves Me" and "Pretty Baby" from the album of yesteryear's song hits to season a half dozen new ones by Raye and DePaul and by Martin and Blane, these plus samplings from the score of "Very Warm for May" totaling a rich and varied melodic content; production numbers in profusion and on the grand scale with dances directed by Charles Walters, Jack Donahue, Robert Alton and Don Loper.

Big, long, brilliant, professional and polished as the Technicolor process that purveys it, the picture is packed with what today's ticket-shoppers clamor for.

Running time, 117 minutes. "G."* Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER.

*"G" denotes general classification.

Four Agencies Closed For Over-Charging

After a hearing over the weekend, New York license commissioner Paul Moss has denied the renewal applications of six New York ticket agencies. Four of them, found guilty of over-charging, were Acme Theatre Ticket Office, Park Theatre Ticket Service, Rialto Theatre Ticket Service, and Sussman Theatre Ticket Office, Inc.

Circle Theatre Ticket Co. was closed for failing to comply with restrictions. The Warfield Theatre Ticket Library lost its license because it had no place of business. Moss said this is the first step toward reorganizing the entire ticket brokerage business.

SMPE Meets Tomorrow

The Atlantic Coast section of the Society of M. P. Engineers will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Hotel Pennsylvania. C. R. Keith presides.

McMullen Resigns From Canada Board

TORONTO, Jan. 17.—R. G. McMullen has resigned as administrator of theatres and films in the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to return to private business, but has been asked to serve in an advisory capacity to M. W. McCutcheon, who is services administrator of the board and to whom McMullen's duties have been assigned.

McMullen is associated with E. P. Taylor of this city in a business capacity and it is noteworthy that Taylor's resignation was announced yesterday as Canadian representative on the Combined Production and Resources Board of the United States and Canada.

McMullen intimated a short time ago that his work as administrator of theatres and films was largely cleaned up. In some quarters, McMullen's resignation is seen as a forerunner to the dropping of government control of the film business.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 17

HOLLYWOOD Victory Campaign today added Brian Aherne, Joan Fontaine, Gene Kelly, Ella Raines and Arlene Judge to the "War Bondbardiers" personnel.

•

James Kern, Warner writer, has been promoted to director by Jack L. Warner, executive producer. Kern will start his new seven-year pact by directing "The Doughgirls," for which he wrote the screenplay with Sam Hellman.

•

Walter Wanger has announced "Salome Where She Dances," based on an original story by Michael J. Phillips; Laurence Stallings is doing the script.

•

Monogram today announced "Typee," the Herman Melville South Seas romance; George D. Green is producing and directing.

•

William A. Scully today arrived here from New York to attend conferences of Universal studio executives.

•

Leo Hurwitz and Paul Strand, documentary co-directors, were signed today by Vanguard, but given no assignments.

•

Los Angeles circuit operators held a conference tonight on forthcoming negotiations with the projectionists' union.

•

Allan Meltzer, Warners' Eastern publicity manager, will leave here tomorrow for the East.

•

Francis Alstock of the OCIAA is expected to arrive here tonight from Washington.

•

Ben Kalmenson will leave here tomorrow for the East.

Gain and Galperson Going to the Coast

Barrington C. Gain, one of Arthur Rank's financial advisers and director of General Film Distributors, Ltd., of London, and Dr. Alexander Galperson, distribution representative of Two Cities Films, also London, plan to leave New York for a two to three weeks' visit to the Coast late this week.

Gain is here to study American film distribution methods with an idea of finding an outlet for 15 to 20 British-made Rank films annually, while Dr. Galperson is here to arrange for the distribution of several Two Cities films. Both are expected to see top industry figures while in California. They will travel together to the Coast.

Geneseo Clearance Complaint Dismissed

Clearance complaint of Marchesi Bros., operating the Geneseo theatre, Geneseo, Ill., against Loew's, Paramount, 20th-Fox and RKO, has been dismissed by John S. Lord, arbitrator at the Chicago tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

Production Up To 41 Filming After a Lull

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 17.—Eight new pictures started during the week, while only three finished, to bring the number shooting to 41 after a two weeks' lull which saw only 36 in work during the previous week as seven finished and six got underway. The production scene:

Columbia

Shooting: "At Night We Dream," "Address Unknown."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross," "Dragon Seed."

Monogram

Started: "Murder in the Fun House," with Sidney Toler, Joan Woodbury, Weldon Heyburn, Mantan Moreland, Benson Fong, Ian Keith, Sam Flint; "Law Men," with Johnny Mack Brown, Raymond Hattan, Jan Wiley, Kirby Grant.

Paramount

Started: "Bring on the Girls," with Veronica Lake, Marjorie Reynolds, Sonny Tufts, Eddie Bracken, Cecil Kellaway, Johnny Coy, Peter Whitney, Huntz Hall, William Moss, Phyllis Brooks; "One Body Too Many," with Jack Haley, Jean Parker, Blanche Yurka, Bela Lugosi, George Zucco, Lyle Talbot, Fay Helm.

Shooting: "And Now Tomorrow," "Road to Utopia," "Incendiary Blonde," "Till We Meet Again," "The Hitler Gang."

P. R. C.

Shooting: "Lady in the Death House," "Buster Crabbe No. 4."

RKO-Radio

Shooting: "Marine Raiders."
Finished: "Show Business."

Republic

Started: "Jamboree," with Ruth Terry, Freddie Fischer and his Schnickelfritz Band, Isabel Randolph.

Shooting: "The Man from Frisco," "The Cowboy and the Senorita."

Finished: "Outlaws of Santa Fe."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "Ladies of Washington," "Wilson," "Home in Indiana," "I Married a Soldier," "Bermuda Mystery."

Finished: "Greenwich Village."

United Artists

(Angelus)

Shooting: "Strange Confession."

(Jules Levey)

Started: "The Hairy Ape," with William Bendix, Susan Foster, Dorothy Comingore, John Loder, Roman Bohnen, Tom Fadden, Charles Cane, Charles LaTorre.

(Charles R. Rogers)

Shooting: "Song of the Open Road."

(Andrew L. Stone)

Shooting: "Sensations of 1944."

(Vanguard)

Shooting: "Since You Went Away."

Universal

Started: "The Invisible Man's Revenge," with Jon Hall, Evelyn Ankers, Alan Curtis, John Carradine, Gale Sondergaard, Leon Errol, "The Scarlet Claw," with Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Lou Harding, George Kirby, Charles Francis, Victoria Horne, David Clyde.

Shooting: "The Merry Monahans," "Christmas Holiday."

Warners

Shooting: "Cinderella Jones," "Make Your Own Bed," "A Coffin for Dimitrios" (formerly "Mask for Dimitrios"), "Mr. Skeffington," "My Reputation," "The Horn Blows at Midnight," "Janie."

Off the Antenna

RADIO can perform the biggest service in its history at this time by scotching the idea that "the war is over," Edgar Kobak, executive vice-president of the Blue Network, told a recent meeting of the Advertising Club of Boston. "We have to point out that now is no time to let down," Kobak said, "that on the contrary this is a time when every last one of us has the solemn duty to redouble his or her effort, and to continue working at this high pitch until the very end." Kobak pledged that the Blue Network has dedicated itself to the task of "selling the war over again."

NBC's pictorial pageant showing the scope and station usage of the network's "Parade of Stars" promotion campaign which was on view in New York last week for the press and advertising agencies and clients, will be moved to Chicago and San Francisco. . . . The Blue Network has expanded the operating facilities of its Central division as a result of a marked increase in business and the desire to effect a complete separation from NBC in as many departments as possible. . . . CBS affiliates' advisory board meeting has been set for Jan. 24-25.

• • •

Purely Personal: *Maurice Joachim has joined the program department of station WJZ as script writer and producer. . . . Ken Farnsworth has been appointed a member of WJZ's sales staff. . . . Robert Allison has joined CBS' education division as assistant to Leon Levine. . . . George Keck has joined the CBS engineering staff as studio technician. . . . James M. Gaines is a new assistant director of NBC advertising and promotion. . . . Dr. James Rowland Angell, NBC public service counsellor, is now a director of New York University's Hall of Fame. . . . George Biggar, former WLW program director, has rejoined that Cincinnati station's staff as special assistant to James D. Shouse, vice-president and general manager. . . . William Voss and Winifred Lenihan have joined Raymond Knight's production staff on the Blue.*

• • •

Program Notes: Universal's radio campaign on "Gung Ho!" will include the CBS Kate Smith program on Friday which will feature Ralph Bellamy in a dramatization of the film. Appearance of Lt. W. S. LeFrancois of the U. S. Marine raiders who took Makin Island, on the CBS "Report to the Nation" program tonight, will also be in connection with the picture. . . . Warner's "Casablanca," featuring Hedy Lamarr, John Loder and Alan Ladd, will be presented by the CBS "Lux Radio Theatre" next Monday. . . . Quentin Reynolds is succeeding Lowell Thomas as narrator of General Motors WOR-Mutual "Victory Is Our Business" program. . . . Premiere of the new NBC "Everything for the Boys" tonight will feature Ginger Rogers in an Arch Oboler dramatization of "Petrified Forest." . . . Republic has scheduled spot announcements on seven Chicago stations for the first pre-release opening of "The Fighting SeaBees" in that city tomorrow. . . . Real-life stories based on the records of persons helped by 406 voluntary hospitals, welfare and health agencies affiliated with the Greater New York Fund are being broadcast in a new weekly series off 15-minute radio dramas titled "My Story," over WMCA.

Radio Scripts Are Said to Be Improved

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Only 22,000 of more than 1,045,000 radio commercial continuities examined by the Federal Trade Commission during the last fiscal year required more than cursory study to determine whether they contained false and misleading representations concerning the products advertised, it was disclosed here by the FTC in its annual report.

Against this negligible percentage of possible violations by broadcasters, the report showed that 27,000 of 353,000 newspaper, magazine and other periodical advertisements were set aside for further review. The Commission commented that, in general, it has had the cooperation of broadcasters and has observed a desire on their part to aid in the elimination of false and misleading advertising.

Gaudet to Pittsburgh

CLEVELAND, Jan. 17.—Gene Gaudet, RKO Radio exploitation man who came here two months ago from Columbus, has been transferred to Pittsburgh.

'Fantasy' Rates Solid $18,000 in Capital

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—"Flesh and Fantasy" should do a much-better-than-average business of $18,000 at RKO-Keith's. Another top for the week is "What a Woman," which is headed for $22,000 at Warner's Earle.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 20:

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S CAPITOL—(3,434) (28c-39c-44c-66c) 7 days. On stage: Patricia Morison, Harrison and Fisher. Gross: $23,000. (Average, $22,000)

"As Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S COLUMBIA—(1,234) (30c-50c) 7 days, 3rd downtown week. Gross: $8,500. (Average, $7,000)

"What a Woman" (Col.)
WARNER'S EARLE—(2,210) (30c-40c-50c-75c-90c) 7 days. On stage: Tim Herbert, Olsen and Shirley. Gross: $22,000. (Average, $18,000)

"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
RKO-KEITH'S—(1,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average, $11,800)

"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
WARNER'S METROPOLITAN — (1,600) (30c-44c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average, $6,900)

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S PALACE—(2,242) (28c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average, $17,600)

Jett Named to FCC

WASHINGTON, Jan .17.—Elwell K. Jett, chief engineer of the Federal Communications Commission, has been nominated by President Roosevelt as a member of the Commission for a term of seven years, to succeed Commissioner George Henry Payne.

Television Delay in Channel Changes

Any change in television channels to higher frequencies would seriously delay the commercial development of television broadcasting, in the opinion of Paul Raibourn, president of Television Productions, Paramount Pictures' affiliate operating television station W6XYZ in Hollywood. Raibourn is also in charge of television activities for Paramount.

In an interview Raibourn said, "Three television stations in New York are ready technically to render an excellent service within the present standards. If standards remain established at present or lower frequency levels for a time sufficiently long to allow television engineers to overcome certain objectionable qualities inherent even in the present frequencies, the day of good reception and programs may soon be here.

ATS Adding Clinics For Tele Services

American Television Society's board of directors has formulated plans for a series of clinics for various phases of television activities, Norman D. Waters, ATS president announces.

Clinic meetings which will deal with motion picture and theatre television, programming, engineering, advertising, education, industrial relations and television receivers will be held at frequent intervals. They will be open only to society members and invited guests. It is expected that a reorganization, necessitated by expansion, will be completed within a month.

'Glamour' and Show Leads in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Jan. 17.— "Riding High" is doing just that for straight film fare at the RKO Palace, where an approximate $16,500 is indicated, although "Footlight Glamour" and an all-colored stage show are pointing to around $26,500 at the Albee.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 19-22:

"Footlight Glamour" (Col.)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. On stage: Ink Spots, Ella Fitzgerald, Moke and Poke, Eddie Vinson, Ralph Brown and Cootie Williams' orchestra. Gross: $26,500. (Average, $22,000)

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $7,500. (Average, $10,000)

"False Colors" (UA)

"There's Something About a Soldier" (Col.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,250. (Average, $1,400)

"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)

"Canyon City" (Rep.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $700. (Average, $800)

"No Time for Love" (Para.)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $8,500. (Average, $9,500)

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 4th week, 2nd at this house following moveover weeks. Gross: $4,200. (Average, $5,000)

"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.)

"The Kansan" (UA)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $4,200. (Average, $4,200)

"Riding High" (Para.)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average, $15,000)

"What a Woman" (Col.)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days, moveover from Palace. Gross: $6,200. (Average, $5,000)

FAME

TENTH ANNUAL EDITION IS NOW IN CIRCULATION

THE INTERNATIONAL INDEX TO PRODUCTION, TALENT AND TECHNICAL VALUES IN THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT . . .

SCREEN • CONCERT • RADIO



One Dollar the Copy

EDITED BY TERRY RAMSAYE

QUIGLEY PUBLICATIONS

ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK (20)

'Honored Heroes' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war bond campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

LEOLA DAVIS, Boulevard Theatre, Los Angeles.
RICHARD FELDMAN, Keith's Theatre, Syracuse, N. Y.
RANDOLPH MILLER, Strand Theatre, New Britain, Conn.
H. J. ROYSTER, Portland, Ore.
LOUIS CHARINSKY, Rialto Theatre, Dallas.
BENE STEIN, Rockne Theatre, Chicago.
HENRY SUCHMAN, Ritz Theatre, Staten Island, N. Y.

KRS Refuses Films To 25 ABC Houses

(*Continued from page* 1)

Elcock, who is now planning to build up his circuit to 80 houses.

Warner Bros. has a 25 per cent stock interest and a strong management participation in ABC which acquired the Elcock theatres last August. At the time the deal was made it was said that it strengthened Warners' immediate and post-war position in the British Isles.

ABC theatres acquired from Elcock are located in the provinces. The acquisition raised the Associated British-Warner and related Union Cinemas holdings to approximately 500 properties, topped only by Rank's holdings through his control of Odeon Circuit's 300 and Gaumont-British's 263. AB-WB's theatres are divided into 360 operated by ABC and 140 by Union Cinemas.

Emergency Unit to Hold Luncheon

A luncheon to be attended by amusement industry leaders will be given at the Hotel Astor on Thursday by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, it was announced at the weekend by Alan Corelli on behalf of the organization. Plans will be discussed for a fund raising program to be held at Madison Square Garden, March 13.

Congressmen Will Rogers, Jr., and Dean Alfange are among the speakers scheduled to address Thursday's luncheon meeting.

Avert Seattle and Atlanta Walkouts

Threatened walkout of Seattle film exchange employes of Local B-21 whose request for a wage increase was said to have been ignored by distributors, with the walkout set to take place on Jan. 14, has been averted according to Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, who said the dispute had been adjusted.

A similar walkout of Atlanta exchange employes has also been averted, it was disclosed.

Friedman to Paramount

BUFFALO, Jan. 17.—David Friedman, former assistant broker at Columbia's local exchange, is now associated with Paramount here.

Industry and Nation Start 4th Bond Sale

(*Continued from page* 1)

"theatres on wheels" are carrying the message to rural areas. Some of the field reports follow.

Industry Symbol is Unveiled in New York

In New York, the industry's 4th War Loan Drive was launched here yesterday with a huge rally and unveiling of the metropolitan theatres' symbolic "seating plan" erected in Times Square. Stars participating in the program included Jeanette MacDonald, Brian Donlevy, Lloyd Nolan, Laird Cregar, Laraine Day, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Kathryn Grayson, Rags Ragland and Bill Robinson; and the motion-picture branch of the War Activities Committee was represented by Charles P. Skouras, general chairman; B. V. Sturdivant, campaign director; Edward L. Alperson, area chairman, and Harry Brandt, Manhattan chairman.

Ted Husing served as master of ceremonies, and the stage management was handled by Bob Weitman, managing director of the Paramount. A U. S. Army band furnished music amid an impressive display of motorized equipment. The Mayor was represented by Newbold Morris, president of the City Council.

Feb. 11, the eve of Lincoln's birthday, has been set for an all-star "Bond a Seat" show at the Roxy at midnight. Talent will be provided from the stage shows of all Broadway motion picture houses. The committee, headed by Irving Lesser, manager of the Roxy, aims to sell 6,000 bonds for the performance. Choicest seats will go for $5,000, with the others being scaled down as low as $25.

Stars of screen and stage along with 2,000 members of all branches of the Armed Forces will take part in a 4th War Loan Drive parade leaving the Battery at 11:50 a.m. today and arriving at City Hall at 12:05 p.m. Exercises there will be followed by a band concert.

Kansas City Using SRO Magazine Stunt

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 17.—A special feature of the industry's 4th War Loan Drive in this area is a magazine called SRO, the letters standing for "Sell bonds," "Report sales and ideas" and "One for each seat." There will be four issues, distributed to exhibitors at intervals of from 10 days to two weeks.

The industry cooperated locally with a "Meet Your Navy" show held last week in the Municipal Auditorium. It was put on largely by a contingent from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

L. E. Fichthorn, of the Fox Midwest, is chairman of a War Finance Committee division that includes the amusement industry. Finton Jones, who specializes in theatre insurance, is amusement chairman; Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newton, public relations chairman; and Claude Morris, advertising manager of Fox Midwest, executive assistant.

Ruggles, Shepard in Cleveland for Drive

CLEVELAND, Jan. 17.—Charles Ruggles and Elaine Shepard arrived here today and will spend two weeks in and around Cleveland appearing to boost the sale of war bonds.

Tomorrow two starlets and four war heroes will open two weeks of one-night stands in Akron. Their schedule is: Youngstown, Jan. 19; Canton, Jan. 20; Coshocton and Zanesville, Jan. 21; Columbus, Jan. 22; Springfield and Dayton, Jan. 23; Fort Wayne and Lima, Jan. 30 and Toledo, Jan. 31.

In Cleveland bond premieres will be held at Loew's State, Jan. 28; Warners' Hippodrome, Feb. 1; Warners' Uptown, Jan. 26 and Warners' Variety at a date not yet established. The State will present "Madame Curie"; the Hippodrome, "Destination Tokyo"; and the Uptown, "Higher and Higher."

In Painesville, a bond premiere, with "Thousands Cheer" on the screen, will be held on Thursday.

Paramount News No. 37 Available for Drive

Paramount News No. 37, a review of the war situation at the turn of the year, by arrangement with Ned Depinet, chairman of the distributors' committee, will be made available for showing to exchange employes of any motion picture company which wishes to show it in connection with the 4th War Loan Drive of the industry.

Paramount exchanges have already been notified, and all exchange area distribution chairmen have been asked by Depinet to notify all other exchanges in their respective localities.

Immerman Buys 50 Bonds At Chicago Meeting

CHICAGO, Jan. 17.—Walter Immerman, general manager of Balaban and Katz, boomed the preliminaries to the 4th War Loan Drive, by purchasing a $25 bond from each of the 50 theatres in the Greater Chicago area at a recent luncheon at the Drake Hotel.

John Balaban gave the principal address. Other speakers included Dave Wallerstein, in charge of the drive for Greater Chicago, B. and K. Theatres; Bill Hollander, director of publicity, who is vice-chairman of the Drive for Cook County, and Jules J. Reubens.

Little Rock Holding Four Bond Premieres

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 17.—Four war bond premieres have been booked in this city, according to Ed. H. Rowley, Jr., manager of Robb-Rowley Theatres and theatre representative to the County War Finance Committees. They will be held at the Pulaski and Rialto each Wednesday night for the duration of the 4th War Loan Drive.

Little Rock's 15 theatres are also sponsoring a "Bond-mobile," equipped with sound and music, to carry the campaign message to rural sections.

Teletype of Screen Service Volunteered

Under direction of Herman Robbins, National Screen Service is extending its all-out assistance to the theatremen in the Fourth War Loan Drive by offering the use of their daily teletype for messages of emergency nature. These will be relayed to state chairmen and others in the event ordinary telegrams are too slow.

Depinet Rules Out Extra 'Free' Days

Ned E. Depinet, chairman of the distributors' committee of the 4th War Loan Drive, reports that there can be no deviation from the original agreement by distributors for providing pictures for bond premieres. This statement was made in view of requests from territories for holding a full "Free Movie Week" or "Free Movie Month." Depinet emphasized that under no circumstances can more than one "Free Movie Day" in any one theatre be held anywhere.

Plan 'Army Play by Play' Film Release

Plans for releasing a film version of "The Army Play by Play," prize-winning, soldier-written play produced by the Army Signal Corps, were discussed yesterday at Governors Island, New York, by John Golden, play producer.

Golden at the same time turned over to Maj. Gen. T. A. Terry of the Second Service Command a check for $96,500 to be applied to Army Emergency Relief, this being the profit from the tour of stage versions. The Broadway engagement had previously netted the fund $23,500, and $133,000 taken in by the June 14 performance had helped clear a mortgage of the Soldiers and Sailors Club.

Legion Lists Five, Objects to Three

The National Legion of Decency, reporting on five current films, lists three as "objectionable in part." This classification was given to Paramount's "Miracle of Morgan's Creek," because of "light treatment of marriage" and because it "reflects the acceptability of divorce"; Monogram's "The Sultan's Daughter," for "suggestive dances and costumes" and Grovas' (Spanish) "El Que Tenga Un Amor," for "suggestive dialogue."

The Legion found 20th-Fox's "Lifeboat" unobjectionable for adults and Monogram's "What a Man" unobjectionable for general patronage.

Two 'U' Luncheons Honor LeFrancois

Motion picture critics' radio representatives and exhibitors from Philadelphia area were guests yesterday at a luncheon given by Universal in that city in honor of Capt. W. S. LeFrancois in connection with the promotion of "Gung Ho!" The 50 guests also included several Marines from a nearby hospital who had participated in the Carlson raid on Makin in which Capt. LeFrancois led a company.

Capt. LeFrancois will meet trade press representatives and others at a luncheon at Toots Shor's here today.

Fire Damages Theatre

LITTLE ROCK, Jan. 17.—A fire which started in a heating and air conditioning plant at the rear of the State Theatre, Hot Springs, Ark., caused damages estimated at $45,000 late last week. George Jones, manager, estimated the loss would amount to $20,000. The theatre loss was partially covered by insurance.

See Film Division In New OTC Set-up Of U.S. State Dept.

(*Continued from page* 1)

been outlined last week at a meeting in New York of Department representatives and film company heads.

Industry problems also are seen as receiving attention from two other branches of the strengthened department. A committee on post-war programs has been created to assist the Secretary in the formulation of post-war foreign policies, and an office of economic affairs will contain a division of commercial policy responsible for the initiation and coordination of policy and action in all matters pertaining the protection and promotion of American commercial interests in foreign countries; the formulation, negotiation and administration of commercial treaties and agreements and reciprocal trade agreements, and the tariff, general trade and international commercial policy of the United States.

Cultural Relations Out

The reorganization abolishes the division of Cultural Relations, which formerly handled film affairs, and transfers its duties to a new office of Public Information, which will handle Department relations with newsreels, radio and press.

A motion picture and radio division will be responsible in matters pertaining to liaison between the Department and other agencies, particularly the office of War Information, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, War Department and Office of Censorship, in matters involved in the dissemination abroad, through films and radio, of information regarding the war effort, and the development and execution of cultural programs through those media.

Television Part of Rank's Plans Here

(*Continued from page* 1)

fied his aims in the United States market, saying that his "only but nevertheless stern determination" is to procure America-wide showing of British pictures. He seemed bewildered and slightly amused over the "agitation" in New York regarding his intentions.

In this connection, it was learned, Arthur W. Kelly, who recently quit his post at United Artists as supervisor of foreign sales, and E. T. Carr, who has just resigned as managing director for U. A. here, are both prepared to range themselves alongside of Rank.

Carr, in an interview at his country house where he is confined with bronchitis, admitted to MOTION PICTURE DAILY that there have been conferences held with Rank on proposals for the acquisition by the latter of a financial interest in U. A. He said that he would issue a statement the end of the week.

$31,475,338 All-Time Warner Film Inventory

(*Continued from page* 1)

Warner Bros. as of Aug. 31, 1943, following recent announcement of earnings for last year, reflects a substantial strengthening of the company's financial structure in the past year," it was said.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported on Jan. 7 that Warner Bros. had a net of $8,238,483 for the year ending Aug. 31, 1943, after deducting losses of $4,537,222 arising from the sale or other disposal of certain real estate and after provision for Federal taxes of $13,890,000. This compares with an operating profit of $8,554,512 for the previous year after Federal taxes of $8,250,000. The real estate on which losses were sustained were properties acquired for new theatre construction which subsequently was abandoned.

Refinancing Program

"The improvements were brought about chiefly by the refinancing program completed last summer, although the highly successful operations for the year also were a material aid in effecting the stronger company position," the Warner statement yesterday continued.

Amortization of film costs during the year, totaling $25,668,728, also shows an increase per film on the basis of the 24 features released in 1942-43 as against 35 releases the previous year, when amortization amounted to $26,221,219.

Cash and U. S. Government bonds in the current assets column total $10,616,469, against cash of $9,550,223 one year ago. Some cash was utilized last year in connection with the refinancing program. Earned surplus stood at $21,918,339, an increase of $4,507,336 over the previous year.

Of the company's $187,654,773 in combined assets, $171,989,155 are in the U. S., $8,437,575 are in Great Britain (including an investment of $3,636,700 in Associated British Pictures Corp., Ltd.), and $1,228,043 are in other foreign countries, including Canada. No provision for contingencies in respect of foreign assets was required in the past year because the company previously wrote off its net investment in enemy-controlled countries.

In addition to redemption of all preferred stock at a cost of $8,910,941, the calling in of the $10,139,500 in six per cent debentures of 1948 and retirement of domestic bank loans aggregating $5,500,000, the company reduced its net funded debt and other long-term obligations to $45,544,195, compared with $49,100,027 a year earlier. Of the current funded debt, $15,000,000 was refinanced at considerably lower interest rates.

$15,000,000 Bank Loan

With respect to the $23,000,000 in lower-interest-bearing funds obtained in the refinancing operation, the unsecured bank loan of $15,000,000, bearing interest at the rate of two and three-quarter per cent, is payable in semi-annual installments of $1,250,000, starting Dec. 1, 1943, while the $8,000,000 in four per cent serial debentures is payable in semi-annual installments of $1,000,000 beginning Dec. 1, 1949. (Only $2,000,000 of these debentures had been issued up to Aug. 31, 1943. Remaining $6,000,000 was issue Sept. 1, with proceeds being used to replenish company treasury cash, which was drawn upon in the redemption and refinancing operations.)

The company has agreed that, in addition to payment of these maturities, it will apply 25 per cent of its consolidated net earnings as a sinking fund to the retirement of the four per cent serial debentures, the bank loan and other funded debt.

No Cash Dividends

The company reports it will not pay any cash dividend nor use any cash to purchase any of its outstanding stock except from consolidated net earnings subsequent to Aug. 31, 1943, nor to an extent exceeding 50 per cent of such earnings unless they exceed $8,000,000 for the year. After outstanding bank loans have been reduced to $10,000,000, it will pay 75 per cent of earnings in dividends. Consolidated net current assets, however, must be maintained above $15,000,000 and must equal at least 1.75 times current liabilities, under the agreement relating to the bank loans and the new debentures, or no cash dividends are to be paid, it was said.

Terms of the new financing also prohibit any lien to be given on any of the company's films, accounts and notes receivable or other assets of the company and its subsidiaries.

OWI to Seek Wider Use of Battle Film

(*Continued from page* 1)

here today by the OWI Motion Picture Bureau.

Stanton Griffis, chief of the bureau, will preside over the meetings, at which it is planned to develop a program for a more intensified use of war information films. Among those who will address the meeting will be George W. Healy, Jr., director of the domestic branch of OWI; Colonel K. Lawton, chief of the Army pictorial service, and Col. Frank Capra of the Army pictorial service.

Chicago Theatres Balk at 'U' Terms

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing combine representing several of the most important independent circuits has not closed with the company.

Jack Kirsch, president of Illinois Allied and identified with the large local booking combine, admitted that a deal with Universal had not been closed but declined to comment on the situation. Attitude of independent exhibitors who have not closed deals with "U" is expressed by Van A. Nomikos, vice-president of Allied, who took exception to percentage terms asked by the company and to the number of films it has placed in top-bracket allocations.

Clark Rejects Distributors' Decree Draft

(*Continued from page* 1)

were at least tentatively acceptable were: Spyros P. Skouras and John F. Caskey, counsel for 20th Century-Fox; N. P. Rathvon, Major Leslie E. Thompson, RKO Theatres, J. R. Rubin, Loew's; Barney Balaban, Paramount, and Joseph Hazen and Nathan Levenson, Warner Bros. Nicholas M. Schenck, reportedly on his way North from Florida, did not attend.

Following the meeting, Clark explained that while the proposals were not acceptable there was a lengthy discussion of the various provisions, as a result of which the distributors are to send an amended draft to Washington at the end of the week.

No Further Meetings

There will be no more meetings with the distributors, however, Clark said, and the draft which is to come will be made the basis of conferences with exhibitor organization leaders, probably in a series of meetings at which each organization will have an opportunity to express its views separately.

Beyond saying that there were several provisions on which the Department and the industry were still far apart, Clark did not particularize as to how far short the distributors had fallen of what he is demanding on behalf of the exhibitors.

It is understood, however, that the distributors' cancellation provisions are not in accord with the minimum requirements as seen by the Department. There are also differences of opinion over the treatment of the distributors' own houses. In the field of arbitration, the distributors are opposing the proposal that appeal boards be set up as required in the various districts and are insisting that appeal activities continue to be centered in New York.

The length of the conference indicated the possibility that the company heads and Clark got down to cases on the changes which he is demanding and worked out to considerable detail the amended provisions which the distributors are to incorporate in their next draft.

New Draft May Not Be 'Final'

Clark, however, made it clear that even if the coming draft meets the standards which he has set up, it will be "accepted" only in the sense that it will be made the basis of the discussions with the exhibitors, and the Department still is free to require further amendment if the exhibitors make a good case against any point.

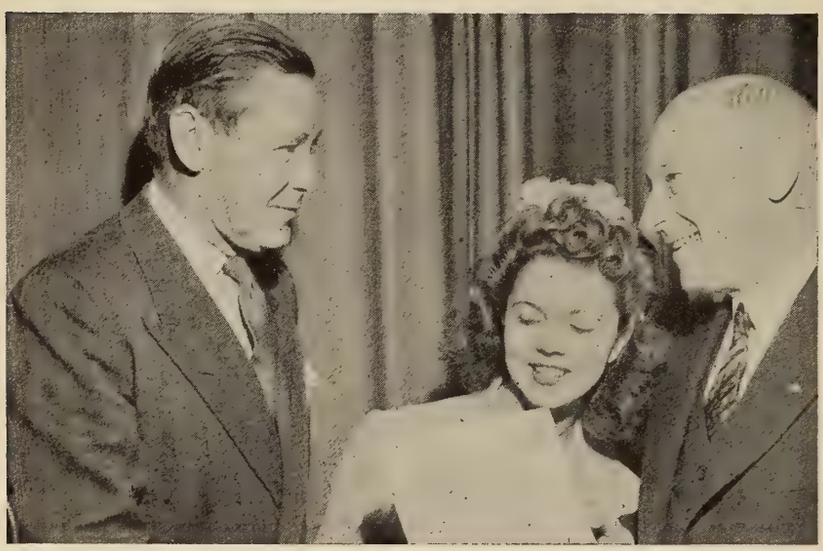
Acceptance by the Department for submission to the Court for approval can come only after the proposals, following the negotiations with the theatre owners, have been thoroughly studied by the Department's experts to make certain that they are within the framework of the anti-trust laws and so clearly defined as to insure no misinterpretation.

Trent on Benson Staff

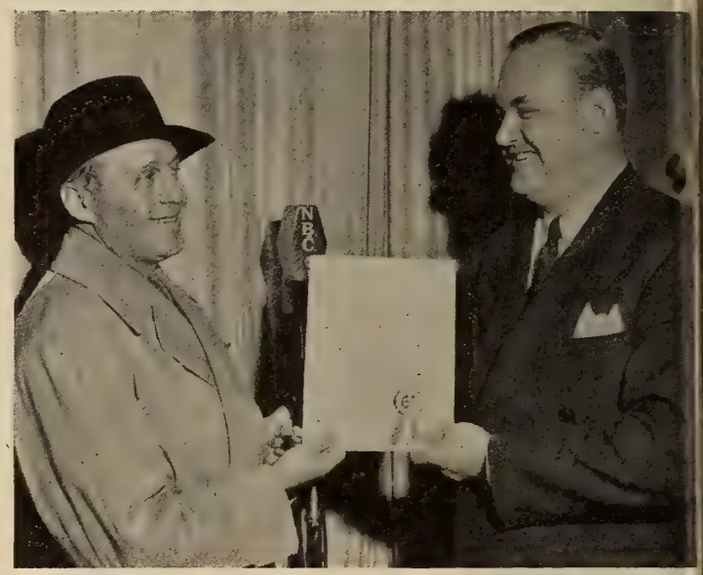
NEW HAVEN, Jan. 17.—Philip Trent, formerly of Universal's Philadelphia office, is now a salesman under Bill Benson at that company's office here.

M. P. Daily Presents Scrolls to Radio's Best

¶ Some of the smiling winners in recent nation-wide poll conducted among radio editors of daily newspapers. The results were published widely throughout the nation.



• Herbert Marshall makes presentation to Cecil B. De Mille, director of Lux Radio Theatre, for best series of plays. Shirley Temple observes.



• Jack Benny presents scroll to Don Wilson, best announcer on the air.



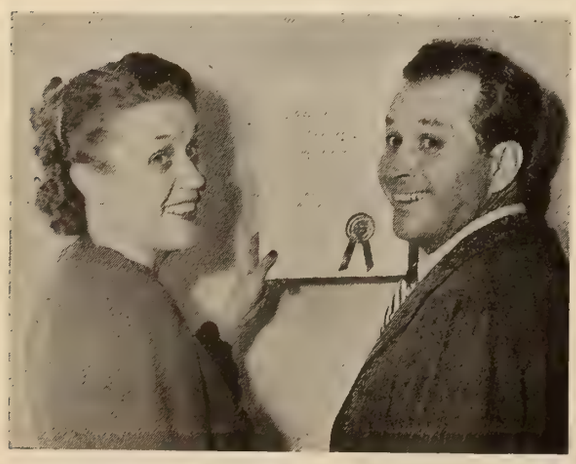
• Dinah Shore voted the most popular female vocalist.



• Dick Haymes was adjudged the most promising star of tomorrow.



• Carleton Morse, producer of "One Man's Family," best serial.



• Fibber McGee and Molly won top honors in the best comedy division.



• Don Ameche accorded the first honors as best film player on air.



• Harry James, for best swing dance band. Helen Ward, feature vocalist, looks on.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 13 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1944 TEN CENTS

AGREE TO SUSPEND SCHINE TRUST SUIT

Settlement of Theatre Divorcement Issue to Determine Action

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The Government's suit against the Schine Circuit will be suspended until a decision is reached with respect to the divorcement of theatres owned by the five consent decree companies, it was learned here today.

Recent conversations between representatives of the company and Department of Justice officials have resulted in an agreement that the proceedings in the case shall follow any line which is adopted with respect to the five major companies.

The question of theatre holdings of those companies is due to be clarified in the near future, either in the consent decree revision or by court proceedings.

The decision to suspend action in the Schine anti-trust suit, which is pending in Federal Court at Buffalo,

(*Continued on page 8*)

Wolff Is Named RKO British Head

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Phil Reisman, RKO foreign director, announced here today the appointment of Robert Wolff as British managing director for RKO and also as a personal assistant to Reisman in Europe. MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Sept. 2, 1943, said that Wolff "is reliably reported to be in line for the appointment as the company's managing director for Great Britain."



Robert Wolff

Ernest Simon, acting managing director, will remain here as RKO sales manager. Reisman immediately contacted the Ministry of Information soliciting the latter's collaboration on work for the Inter-American Affairs Coordinator.

War Bond Premieres For 4th War Loan Already Total 1,227

Exhibitors all over the country have already set 1,227 Bond Premieres with the campaign having opened only yesterday. This compares with 1,473 Bond Premieres held altogether in the 3rd War Loan Drive, indicating a heavy opening day impetus which is expected to soon put the industry over the bond premiere quota.

Several territories have exceeded last year's quota already. Leading the list is Denver with 207 War Bond Premieres as against 60 in the 3rd War Loan Drive. Minneapolis has

(*Continued on page 9*)

Lipton of Columbia Inducted Into Army

David A. Lipton, director of advertising, publicity and exploitation for Columbia Pictures, was inducted into the Army here yesterday. He will report to Camp Upton on Feb. 8. No successor has as yet been named by Columbia. Lipton was also vice-chairman of the national public relations division of the War Activities Committee.

Before joining Columbia three years ago, Lipton was publicity director at Universal Studios and was previously a press-relations counsel for Columbia Broadcasting. He also spent 13 years in the advertising department of Balaban and Katz Theatres in Chicago.

U. S. CHECKUP ON TICKETS STARTS

Columbia Officers, Board Re-elected; $480,000 Net Seen

Stockholders of Columbia Pictures held their annual meeting at the home office here yesterday, re-elected all board members, who, in turn, re-elected all officers; restored former salary cuts taken by Harry and Jack Cohn and voted "a note of appreciation" for the management.



Harry Cohn

The following members of the board were re-elected to serve for the ensuing year: Harry Cohn, Jack Cohn, A. Schneider, A. Mon-

(*Continued on page 8*)

600 Attend M. P. Associates Induction

More than 600 attended the installation luncheon of the following officers of Motion Picture Associates held at the Hotel Astor here yesterday: Morris Sanders, president; Jack Ellis, vice-president; Matthew Cahan, second vice-president; Saul Trauner,

(*Continued on page 9*)

Revenue Bureau Asks Wisconsin Theatres For Records

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Periodic checks on theatre admissions are to be made in many sections of the country at intervals in the future by the Internal Revenue Service, it was learned here today.

The checkups will be made by Federal deputy collectors' offices in the field and are believed to be the result of general instructions issued by the Internal Revenue Department here to regional offices calling for a tightening up of collection procedure in the theatre field.

Theatres in the Wisconsin district will be among the first to witness the new checking-up process, it was learned. The office of the deputy collector for the Wisconsin district already has notified theatre operators there by mail of the new plan. In letters addressed "To All Theatre Managers" it was stated that:

"In the near future a periodic check

(*Continued on page 8*)

RCA Will Release Limited Equipment

A limited quantity of RCA theatre equipment will be made available for exhibitors during the first half of this year, according to Homer B. Snook, manager of RCA's theatre equipment sales here. Means for obtaining WPB approval of such purchases are provided under WPB limitation order No. L-325.

The equipment will include small

(*Continued on page 8*)

E. T. Carr Slated For Post With Rank

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Appointment of E. T. Carr, recently resigned as United Artists' British managing director, to J. Arthur Rank's organization is only awaiting formal announcement and is anticipated on Thursday, it was learned here today. David H. Coplan, who has been announced as his successor, will leave Canada for London in a few days to take charge in a temporary capacity at UA's London office.

Arthur W. Kelly, who recently re-

(*Continued on page 9*)

Senate Rejects Mead Fight Against Tax Increase; Votes New Amendment

Washington, Jan. 18.—By a voice vote, the Senate today defeated an effort of Senator Mead of New York to prevent any increase in the present admission tax rate, but adopted an amendment offered by Senator George, on behalf of Senator Wilson to have the finance committee rate of one cent for each five cents "or fraction thereof" changed to one cent for each five cents "or major fraction thereof."

Immediately after disposing of these two amendments the Senate quit for the day, leaving hanging in the air amendments proposed by Senators Revercomb seeking a rate of one cent on 10 for motion picture theatres, and Wilson for exemption from the tax for theatres in communities of less than 10,000 persons. Senator George, chairman of the finance committee and in charge of the bill, assured Revercomb that if he desired to reopen the matter to secure consideration of his amendment he would be permitted to do so.

Personal Mention

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, who was scheduled to return from Florida yesterday, has again delayed his trip until Jan. 26.

•

SI FABIAN, head of Fabian Theatres, returned here yesterday from Charlotte, where on Monday he addressed the North and South Carolina Exhibitors Association convention.

•

ISABEL AUSTIN, Roxy Theatre publicist here, was given a birthday luncheon at the Hotel Abbey yesterday by colleagues of the WAMPS, women's local film publicity group.

•

HENRY HERBEL, West Coast Warner district manager, has left Los Angeles for San Francisco, Portland and Seattle.

•

JAMES CAGNEY and EDWARD MCNAMARA of William Cagney Productions are spending several days at Cagney's farm at Martha's Vineyard.

•

C. C. MOSKOWITZ, vice-president of Loew's Inc., will celebrate his 31st anniversary with the organization on Jan. 20.

•

ADOLPH ZUKOR, Paramount board chairman, will leave Friday to spend four to five weeks on the Coast.

•

ZELMA BROOKOV of Warners' Eastern talent bureau, will go to Philadelphia on a scouting trip.

•

HARRY M. KALMINE, Warner Bros. Theatres assistant general manager, will return today from Albany.

•

CHARLES FRANCIS COE, executive vice-president of the MPPDA, has left for Florida.

•

H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, will return today from Charlotte and Washington.

•

HAROLD POSTMAN, assistant to W. F. RODGERS, was confined to his home yesterday due to illness.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, M-G-M exchange operations head, returned yesterday from St. Louis.

•

JOSEPH PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, will leave for Canada Friday, returning here Monday.

•

WILLIAM ROSENOW, Paramount salesman in Rochester, will enter the Army Jan. 30.

•

OSCAR DOOB, Loew's advertising-publicity director, left yesterday for a Florida vacation.

•

ARTHUR DE BRA of the MPPDA, is still at home with an infected foot.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS is enroute to Miami for a vacation.

•

R. F. WALSH, international president of IATSE, is in town.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

New York, Jan. 18

GOOD public relations are built on good conduct. Latest example of good conduct on the part of the industry is illustrated in an interesting offshoot of the war.

It began with "Report from the Aleutians" and conceivably will grow from there out. Audiences saw and recognized fathers, sons, brothers and sweethearts on the screen. Followed the normal desire to obtain their pictures. Requests, of course, poured in on the local exhibitor. He couldn't do very much about it beyond discussing the matter with the chairman of his War Activities Committee.

■

But WAC in New York could. Moreover, it did. Prints in representative totals were struck off to meet the requests and forwarded to field representatives. They, in turn, routed them to the interested exhibitor, who routed them to the interested public.

This is a top-grade example of how to make friends and influence people. For it is implicit in such an arrangement that the plan will cement further the relations between the exhibitor and his audience. The theatre once more will find itself serving the community, and that is its function. The industry, through the theatre, adds to a brilliant record of war services.

Highly important, and smart, is that portion of the plan which makes the exhibitor the clearing house. It is consciously contrived so that he may maintain his necessarily essential position as direct contact with his public.

■ ■

In view of extended runs and tremendous grosses, the others would have gotten there anyway. But it is rather generally accepted it was the Warner organization which was the first to embark upon sharp reductions in the number of releases per season. The policy maintains itself throughout 1943-44.

The Brothers are heading for an approximate 14 again this season, exclusive of about half-a-dozen admittedly small fry which carried over from 1942-43 when the schedule was so sharply telescoped. There, the product backlog continues substantial. As each succeeding attraction reaches daylight, another freshly completed job takes its place. In fact, the company knows at this point what its early releases for 1944-45 are to be.

Preparing for the market now are "In Our Time" and "The Adventures of Mark Twain." By present plan, "Saratoga Trunk" ought to hit the deck at the tail end of the Spring.

■ ■

Question: "How about the decree?"

Answer: "We had a long session at the Department of Justice in Washington Monday, but some rewriting appears to be required as a result."

Question: "Will there be a decree?"

Answer: "No one can answer that with finality. Too many things are apt to happen. I think, however, there will be—in due time."

The questions were ours, the answers by one of the pivotal lawyers in the protracted negotiations.

Forecast (*Ours*) — There will be a new decree. No matter how much re-drafting may be required or how long the back-and-forth may run, a decree will emerge. The alternative confronting the five majors is theatre divorcement. They may be expected to travel any distance, concede almost any concession for the continued right to maintain their theatre structure intact. Or, if you like, intact—less pools. But pools present no serious problems. There are too few. Their dissolution presages no serious upsets in the prevailing exhibition pattern. And, finally, giving them up is largely a concession made at Government insistence.

■ ■

J. Walter Thompson Company, one of the big babies in the advertising agency field, is also a producer by indirection. The agency does not make films. It causes them to be made, however, and currently has eleven on the way for its various accounts. The total is the highest in the agency's history.

Six are shooting now and the rest are about to go. The half dozen in the making are for Shell Oil, Reynolds Metals, Sharp and Dohme, Fulton Syphon Co. and the California Wine Institute.

■ ■

Cheery note directed at W. Ray Johnston, now observing his 30th anniversary in the industry:

"Where Are Your Children?" holds the opening day's record at the Fulton, Pittsburgh. In its first three days, it hit $7,500 and probably will do an extremely handsome $13,000 to $15,000 on the week.

Eddie Grainger, whose house the Fulton is, is pleased, too.

Nizer's Book Is Widely Acclaimed

"What to Do with Germany," a new book by Louis Nizer, just published by Ziff-Davis Publishing Co., has met with wide acclaim from statesmen, journalists, novelists and businessmen.



Louis Nizer

Nizer, prominent industry attorney and for many years secretary of the New York Film Board of Trade, also is the author of "Thinking on Your Feet" and "New Courts of Industry." In a foreword to his newly published work, Nizer declares that "The great tragedy of the 20th century is that peace has suffered defeats even after wars have been won for her. He reviews the aftermath of the last war and poses the question whether a repetition of that experience will be permitted, "Or will we, with knowledge of the causes of the disaster, grimly set ourselves to the task of winning the peace and preventing World War III now?"

The volume discusses means by which the peace may be preserved and presents a program for postwar treatment of Germany consisting of "punishment," "economic" and "educational" procedures. The volume has been commended by the following, among more than a score of illustrious personalities: Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, Dean Alfange, Clifton Fadiman, Somerset Maugham, Louis Bromfield, Maurice Maeterlinck, Fannie Hurst, Cecil Roberts, Sigrid Undset, Donald M. Nelson, Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, James W. Gerard, Henri Bernstein, Alvin Johnson and Sen. Harry Truman.

Three WB Producers Going on Expeditions

A. Pam Blumenthal, Van Campen Heilner and Andre de la Varre, who make short subjects for Warners, will leave here this month on trips in connection with forthcoming pictures.

Blumenthal will go to the Coast to put final touches on three subjects. While at the Burbank studio he will also set up a new summer schedule. De la Varre will head South to direct a number of shorts in Virginia, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and Cuba. Heilner will go to Mexico, Cuba and the Caribbean.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

"Howdy Judy! Our picture 'GIRL CRAZY' is setting new hold-over records! It's a topper in M-G-M's 12 TOPPERS!"

"Yippee Mickey! And M-G-M is keeping up the fast pace with its new Group VITAMIN 12!"



MICKEY ROONEY

JUDY GARLAND

M-G-M'S "GIRL CRAZY"

with

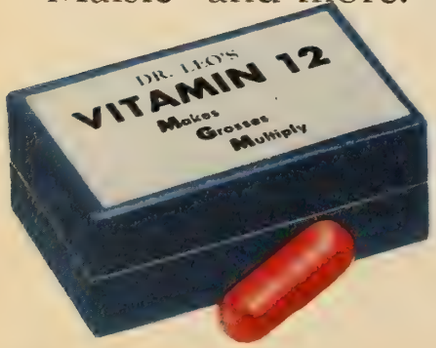
TOMMY DORSEY

AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Gil Stratton • Robert E. Strickland • "Rags" Ragland • June Allyson Nancy Walker • Guy Kibbee • Screen Play by Fred F. Finklehoffe Based Upon Musical Play "Girl Crazy" by Guy Bolton and Jack McGowan • Music by George Gershwin Lyrics by Ira Gershwin Directed by NORMAN TAUROG • Produced by ARTHUR FREED

LEO'S LUCKY NUMBER!

M-G-M's new Group VITAMIN 12 is continuing the box-office happiness of such 12 TOPPERS successes as: "Salute To The Marines," Best Foot Forward," "Lassie Come Home," "I Dood It," "Girl Crazy," "Swingshift Maisie" and more.



M-G-M's "VITAMIN 12" Off to a Flying Start!

"MADAME CURIE"—Sensational at Music Hall! "A GUY NAMED JOE"—Breaks Capitol, N. Y. Records! "THOUSANDS CHEER"—200 dates launched it BIG! "CRY 'HAVOC'"—8-Week Astor Theatre, Broadway Hit!—**And that's just the beautiful beginning!**

"Our Two Big Jobs in January: Fourth War Loan and March of Dimes!"

'The Lion's Roar' Roars No More

Chicago, Jan. 18.—"The Lion's Roar," named for the Loew-Metro house publication, a single engine bomber, after a valiant career against the Nazis in Sicily and Italy was finally shot out from under its pilot, 1st Lt. Gerald Skibbons, formerly an employe of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in Chicago.

Skibbons escaped in a parachute with only minor head injuries. News of his heroics and that he is recovering in a hospital in Italy was received here yesterday by William Bishop, publicity director for M-G-M out of the local office.

Brien Is Winner in Paramount Contest

Lige Brien, manager of the Kenyon Theatre, Pittsburgh, Pa., was first prize winner in the nationwide competition to decide the six best selling campaigns on the Mark Sandrich-Paramount production "So Proudly We Hail," it was announced yesterday by Alec Moss, exploitation manager.

Six managers won an aggregate of $1,045 in War Bonds, representing purchase value, for the most outstanding campaigns selected from among several hundred entered in the competition. The business done by the picture at the box-office was a factor in the judges' decision.

In addition to Brien, who won a $500 War Bond as first prize, prize-winning managers and the amounts they were awarded follow: Harry Botwick, State, Portland, Me., second prize, $350; Margaret Goyette, publicity director, Denham, Denver, third prize, $250; Harold Armistead, Lyric Theatre, Easley, S. C., fourth prize, $150; Ben Rosenberg, manager, and Paul Levi, publicity director, Metropolitan, Boston, fifth prize, $100, and Vernon D. Hunter, Beacham, Orlando, Fla., sixth prize, $50.

Seeks Designation Of SPU for Actors

Los Angeles, Jan. 18.—Claiming to represent 1,800 card-holding members who have designated the Screen Players Union as their collective bargaining agency, SPU Attorney Alexander Schullman today pressed demands for a National Labor Relations Board election among Screen Actors Guild Class B players.

Edward J. Eagen, NLRB regional director, told Motion Picture Daily, "We cannot set a hearing date as yet. Due to pressure of NLRB aircraft plant elections we cannot hope to set a date before the end of the week."

SPU paralleled a SAG request to producers for an arbitration board, headed by publisher Manchester Body, to take immediate action on arbitration of SAG's wage demands for Class B players which producers have refused to consider until SPU collective bargaining demands have been settled.

Review

"The Fighting Seabees"

(Republic)

THE first, full-dress tribute to the Fighting Seabees, Navy combat construction battalions, is a stirring picturization of the lusty lads who both work and fight. Considerable production values have been accorded by Albert J. Cohen, while the direction of Edward Ludwig, with an eye to action and documentary realism, is good. Add the sound and fury of several pitched battles and, with a nod in the direction of the feminine fans, a romance that doesn't get in the way of the action, and Republic's bid for first-run playing time is nicely carried off.

With John Wayne, Susan Hayward and Dennis O'Keefe there is also a list of stalwart supporting players including such dependables as William Frawley, J. M. Kerrigan, Leonid Kinskey and Grant Withers, who add to the film's effectiveness. Borden Chase and Aeneas MacKenzie have fashioned a smooth-flowing script, adapted from an original by Chase, which has Wayne, as a tough, highly-efficient construction boss, going into the Pacific with his hardy gang to build an airfield. With his men badly cut up after a bitter hand-to-hand encounter with the Japs, Wayne goes back to Washington with Naval Officer Dennis O'Keefe, and convinces the Navy that fighting construction battalions are needed. During the fight, O'Keefe's girl, Susan Hayward, a war correspondent, has been nicked by a Jap sniper, and confesses her love for Wayne, who responds in kind.

Another island, another job to do, but this time the construction gang and their boss are fully-trained Navy men, Fighting Seabees. Next job is an oil depot, which becomes the subject for which a knock-'em-down-drag-'em-out fight ensues when the Japs land. Wayne saves the situation by equipping a "bull-dozer" with a thermite bomb and blows up himself and the Japs to Kingdom Come.

Considerable pre-selling by Republic will facilitate handling the picture. Intense interest by the public in the Fighting Seabees, whetted by many news stories, gives showmen added exploitation advantages.

Running time, 100 mins. "G."* Charles Ryweck

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Grainger Ends Series Of Sales Conventions

Hollywood, Jan. 18.—Today's second-day session at the Republic Studio here completed the current series of sales conferences. Today's meeting finished the third conference, which followed similar meetings in Chicago and New York.

Company President James R. Grainger presided at all meetings. Among those present at the final session today were Francis Bateman, Western district sales manager; Branch Managers F. M. Higgins, Seattle; J. H. Sheffield, Portland; Gene Gerbase, Denver; H. C. Fuller, Salt Lake City, and Branch Managers John Frey, Los Angeles, and Sid Weisbaum, San Francisco. Herbert J. Yates, Sr., delivered the principal address.

The company intends to work out a plan, Yates told the meeting, whereby salesmen will participate in Republic's increased business, which he said was greater this past year than ever before.

He also advocated the appointment by production, distribution and exhibition heads of a joint commission to study the problems which will confront the industry in the post-war era. The industry, in his opinion, he declared, will not feel the effects of termination of hostilities until 18 months after the end of the war, thus allowing ample time for an adjustment to the new conditions which peace will bring.

Kampel Leaves Columbia

Dan Kampel of Columbia's home office exploitation department, has resigned, effective last Friday.

Precedent Seen in Lee Insurance Case

New York State Supreme Court Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer has handed down a decision awarding Mrs. Arthur Lee, widow of the late head of Artlee Pictures, double indemnity on insurance as a result of his accidental death on a Clipper ship which crashed in the Togas River, Lisbon, Portugal, last year.

The insurance company had refused to pay double indemnity because the policy contained a clause which stated that double indemnity does not apply if a person is killed while engaging or participating as a passenger or otherwise in aerial navigation. Harold Sherman and I. Jack London, of Fitelson and Mayers, attorneys representing Mrs. Lee, contended that this provision did not apply to paying passengers and that Lee was not engaging in aerial navigation. The action was filed against the Guardian Life Insurance Co. for $10,000. The decision may be a precedent for other actions, it was said.

'Gung Ho!' Author at Universal Luncheon

Universal was host to trade press and newspaper representatives at a luncheon at Toots Shor's here yesterday to introduce Capt. W. S. LeFrancois who participated in the Carlson raid on Makin.

Le Francois is the author of the story upon which is based the Universal film, "Gung Ho!", which deals with the raid. The film will open in New York at the Criterion on Jan. 25.

1,500 Houses Jump The Gun on 'March Of Dimes' Drive

More than 1,500 theatres will launch their March of Dimes drives several days before the industry's official starting date, Jan. 24, and will continue their collections through Jan. 30. Loew's and RKO Theatres will inaugurate their drives tomorrow to coincide with key films opening that day in order to capitalize on week-end crowds.

Publix Theatres in Detroit and Butterfield houses in Michigan are opening their drives on Friday. New York State exhibitors are aiming at a goal of $500,000; Texas is shooting for $100,000; Georgia, $36,000; Illinois, $150,000; Minnesota, $50,00; while Louisiana and Mississippi will seek to triple collections of $20,000 taken last year.

The New York "Dimes" committee announced yesterday that 600 acceptances have been received from circuit and independent exhibitors in the metropolitan area here to attend an "Appreciation Breakfast" to be given at the Hotel Astor Friday morning by Nicholas Schenck, "Dimes" chairman. Speakers will include Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation; E. L. Alperson, Harry Brandt and Ernest Emerling. Newsreels tomorrow will show Mary Pickford and Mrs. Roosevelt opening the "Dimes" drive in front of Loew's Capitol, Washington, D. C.

Rodgers Says Small Houses Must Stay

Washington, Jan. 18.—"It is vitally important to the public and the industry that theatres in small communities and subsequent-run houses in metropolitan areas which have been adversely affected by shifting populations be kept open and it is the responsibilty of the industry to see that this is done."

This was the statement made by W. F. Rodgers, Loew's vice-president, speaking before over 200 exhibitors and Government officials at a luncheon-meeting here today in the Hotel Statler.

Rodgers also told the meeting that war messages produced by the film industry or by the Office of War Information had reached the billion and a quarter peoples of the Orient during the past year.

Stage to Aid Film 'Dimes' Collections

Legitimate theatres, in addition to film houses of New York and other large cities, will participate in the film industry's March of Dimes drive by taking audience collections, according to Nicholas M. Schenck, national "Dimes" chairman. Lee Shubert has been appointed chairman of the stage theatres' committee.

Road shows will be asked to participate wherever they may be playing during the week of January 24th.

'Come Lately' Comes Up as Top Grosser In Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18.—Snow and ice cut attendance, getting the week off to a slow start for downtown houses. Holdovers were hit hardest. The sudden shuttering of Fay's is helping the Earle. Leading is "Johnny Come Lately" at the Fox, figuring on $25,500 for the week in addition to $4,000 grossed for its dual Sunday showing at the Earle. Among holdovers, "Thousands Cheer" was strongest, pointing to $17,400 for its third week at the Stanley.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 19-21:

"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
ALDINE—(900) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $12,200. (Average, $10,-300)

"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,900. (Average, $3,500)

"What a Woman" (Col.)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,800. (Average, $19,000)

"There's Something About a Soldier" (Col.) (6 days)

"Johnny Come Lately" (UA) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville, including the Ritz Brothers, Georgie Auld's Orchestra, Ann Sulloway, and Bill Bailey. Gross: $29,500. (Average, $22,000)

"Johnny Come Lately" (UA)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $24,200. (Average, $17,800)

"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,850. (Average, $5,600)

"The Fallen Sparrow" (RKO)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,500. (Average, $5,000)

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
MASTBAUM — (4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,900. (Average, $22,000)

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STANLEY—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,400. (Average, $18,300)

"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average, $8,-000)

IATSE Local 306 to Admit New Members

Members of New York IATSE projectionists' Local No. 306 will vote on admitting 30 qualified applicants to union membership at a meeting at Manhattan Center today. Applicants are sons and brothers of members, as well as outsiders.

Admission of new members, the first instance in many years, would be in line with a union resolution adopted last Fall to maintain 100 per cent unionization of projectionists here and present plan calls for taking in qualified new members regularly to augment the ranks depleted by death or Army service of members.

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Review

"Uncensored"

(Gainsborough-20th Century-Fox)

THE interesting story of the Belgian underground, particularly of the publication of the underground newspaper, *La Libre Belgique,* provides the material for this British war film, produced by Edward Black under the supervision of Maurice Ostrer with Anthony Asquith handling direction. Though "Uncensored" was produced by Gainsborough some two years ago, it definitely possesses an element of timeliness and should prove of interest to American audiences. Featured are Eric Portman, one of England's top performers, Phyllis Calvert and Griffith Jones.

The story and adaptation by Wolfgang Wilhelm is based on Oscar E. Millard's book, which is well known here. Rodney Ackland and Terrence Rattigan have endowed their screenplay with a slight romantic thread which has Portman, a variety entertainer and underground worker, falling in love with Miss Calvert, the daughter of the publisher of the underground paper and at the same time, the editor of a Nazi paper. The publication and distribution of the underground newspaper and the heroic defiance of the Nazis by the Belgians provides the action.

Asquith's direction sustains interest in the material available, but the action is a little on the slow side. Performances by Portman and Miss Calvert as well as by other principals, including Jones, Raymond Lovell, Peter Glenville and Frederick Culley are satisfactory. British wartime power restrictions presumably are responsible for inadequate lighting in some sequences.

Running time, 83 mins. "G."* Release date, Jan. 21.

MILT LIVINGSTON

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Lost Angel' Tops Slackened Baltimore

BALTIMORE, Jan. 18.—Holdovers and a snow storm cut box office figures which, since the holidays, had been hitting high-water marks. Matinees, too, have been slightly off for new attractions. Leading is "Lost Angel," due for $18,000 at the Century.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 21:

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average, $16,500)

"Riding High" (Para.)
KEITH'S—(2,406) (28c-40c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,-500. (Average, $12,000)

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (28c-35c-40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average, $9,700)

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-55c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average, $16,900)

"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
HIPPODROME—(2,205) (28c-39c-44c-55c-66c) 7 days, 2nd week. Stage show: Ethel Smith, Al Ferguson, Norton Sisters, The Claytons, Ross & Bennett. Gross: $17,-000. (Average, $16,800)

"Tornado" (Para.)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average, $5,900)

"Hands Across the Border" (Rep.)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average, $7,500)

Haas Heads M.P. Employes Union

Leo Haas of Warner Bros. was elected president of M. P. Office Employees Union, Local 23169, AFL at a meeting at the Hotel Capitol here Monday night. Haas succeeds Russell Moss who was elected executive vice-president. It is understood that Moss will also act as business manager of the union as well.

Other officers elected by the union, which represents Warner home office and affiliated company white-collarites, include: Louis Levine, vice-president; Harry Baum, treasurer; George H. Imber, general secretary; Lillian Cotton, financial secretary; Norma Goldberg, recording secretary, and John Cilento, sergeant-at-arms.

Toronto Yielding 'O'Rourke' $15,500

TORONTO, Jan. 18. — "Princess O'Rourke" aimed for $15,600 at the Imperial Theatre in competition with three holdovers and "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" looking like $11,800 for its third week at Shea's Theatre.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 20:

"Paris After Dark" (20th-Fox)
"The Dancing Masters" (20th-Fox)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $3,400. (Average, $3,900)

"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
IMPERIAL — (3,375) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $15,600. (Average, $12,-600)

"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,300. (Average, $10,800)

"Sweet Rosie O'Grady" (20th-Fox)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,800. (Average, $12,300)

"Holy Matrimony" (20th-Fox)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days, moveover. Gross: $4,100. (Average, $4,-600)

"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,200. (Average, $9,700)

Club Gives Ambulance

An ambulance given by Paramount's Pep Club to the American Field Service is already in action on the Italian front, it was learned yesterday at a meeting of the club in the home office, at which presentation of a check for $2,000 was made by Oscar A. Morgan, acting for Neil Agnew who headed the drive for the gift, to Stephen Galatti, AFS secretary.

Greenwald Back

CLEVELAND, Jan. 18.—After an interlude of three years with a bowling business, Frank Greenwald, veteran distributor and exhibitor, has become manager of the Jewel Theatre, Associated Circuit house.

B'way Key Houses Record Substantial Holdover Grosses

Broadway key houses are registering substantial grosses this week even though several are playing extended holdovers. Favorable weather is one factor contributing to the situation.

The first-run leader is again the Radio City Music Hall with "Madame Curie" and a holiday stage-show now in their fifth week. The film continues to display surprising drawing power and will gross an estimated $102,000 with $66,000 having already crossed the box-office windows on the first four days. This week's gross will be higher than last week's when a late spurt in business brought the final figure to $101,000 to pass an original estimate of $95,000.

Third and final week for "The Gang's All Here" at the Roxy will yield approximately $70,000. Twentieth Century-Fox's "The Lodger" and a stage show headed by the Blue Networks' musical variety program, "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street," featuring Paul Lavalle and his orchestra and announcer Milton Cross, bows in at the Roxy. Stage show also features Jack Durant, Hal Le Roy, Maurice Rocco and Helen Forrest.

The Capitol, with "A Guy Named Joe" and a Hollywood "in person" show featuring Kathryn Grayson, Lou Holtz and Richard Himber and his orchestra is headed for a healthy $65,-000 for the fourth week and will hold for a fifth. Claimed to be the first picture to play the Strand to accomplish the feat of grossing over $60,000 three weeks in succession, "Destination Tokyo" will do better than $60,-000 on its third week, and the picture and a stage show headed by Charlie Barnet and his band will hold for a fourth. Fourth and final week of "Riding High" at the Paramount will do $45,000. "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and a stage show headed by Johnny Long and his band, Hazel Scott and Gil Lamb will take over today.

"Lifeboat" at the Astor is expected to reach $40,000 on its first week and may set a new record for the house. It will hold over. The 14th week of the continuous run of "For Whom the Bell Tolls" at the Rivoli will gross $30,000 with the picture holding over an additional four days of its 15th week before making way for "The Song of Bernadette," which opens on Jan. 26 after a special invitational preview the previous evening. Third week for "His Butler's Sister" at the Criterion is headed for $20,000 and holds over a fourth.

Second week for "Government Girl" at the Palace will yield $18,000. RKO's Sinatra film, "Higher and Higher" will bow in at the Palace on Friday.

First week of Monogram's "Where Are My Children?" at the Globe is estimated to do $25,000 and will hold over. Fifth week for "Desert Song" at the Hollywood will yield $21,000, and the picture will hold for a sixth. "The North Star," now in its 11th week at the New Victoria, is headed for $15,500 and will remain for a 12th week. Initial week for "Spider Woman" at the Rialto is estimated at $12,000 and the picture will hold for a second week.

'WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN?' BREAKS ALL RECORDS AT GARRICK, CHICAGO!

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MONOGRAM PICTURES

Gov't Action Suspended in Schine Case

(*Continued from page* 1)

was made in anticipation of the expiration next Spring of the two-year "standstill" agreement between the Government and the defendant. Under that agreement, Schine undertook to dispose of a number of its theatre operations cited by the Government, in return for which the Government agreed not to bring the action against the circuit to trial prior to next May 24. A number of the specified theatres were disposed of within the time prescribed but no purchasers could be found by Schine for others.

The new agreement indicates that a more or less permanent consent decree, based upon the ultimate disposition of the question of affiliated theatre divorcement, will be entered into by Schine and the Government in lieu of prosecution of the anti-trust suit. That eventuality would be dependent upon determination of the theatre divorcement issue in the pending decree negotiations with the five major companies.

Officials Said to Agree

Department officials are understood to agree with the Schine Circuit that it would be unfair to require them to dispose of their theatres if similar action is not taken with respect to other companies whose acquisitions also are under fire. It is the idea of Assistant Attorney-General Tom C. Clark that the whole question of theatre acquisitions should be wrapped up in one package with a policy applicable throughout the industry.

The Schine Circuit recently submitted its report on theatre holdings and the efforts that have been made to dispose of certain houses, but Department officials said it contained nothing they did not already know.

Under the informal suspension of action, it is understood the proceedings against Schine will be left where they are until the "big case" is disposed of, either by consent decree or by trial.

Collins to Film Board, Replacing McLean

TORONTO, Jan. 18.—In a further reorganization of film propaganda agencies of the Dominion Government, the resignation has been accepted by Premier W. L. M. King, of A. G. McLean as controller and secretary of the National Film Board. He has been succeeded by E. C. Collins of the auditor-general's office. The resignation of John Grierson as general manager of the Wartime Information Board will become effective Feb. 1.

Smith, Writer, Actor, Dies

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 18.—Jack C. Smith, 48, songwriter and actor, currently appearing in "His Butler's Sister," died in Hollywood last weekend. Smith began in films as one of the originals in the old Mickey McGuire series starring Mickey Rooney. He is survived by his widow, Ruth, and his mother, Mrs. Harriet Laraway Smith, of Van Nuys, Cal.

Columbia Officers, Board Re-elected

(*Continued from page* 1)

tague, N. B. Spingold, L. J. Barbano, Leo M. Blancke.

At the meeting of the board of directors immediately following the stockholders' meeting the following officers were re-elected:

Harry Cohn, president; Jack Cohn, executive vice-president; A. Schneider, vice-president and treasurer; Sidney Buchman, A. Montague, N. B. Spingold, B. B. Kahane, L. J. Barbano and Joseph A. McConville, all vice-presidents; Charles Schwartz, secretary; Mortimer Wormser and Leo Jaffe, assistant treasurers; David Fogelson and Duncan Cassell, assistant secretaries; Warren Sharpe, comptroller.

Proxy Vote is 80%

Of the total outstanding stock of the company, over 80 per cent was reported represented by proxy, "of which an overwhelming majority voted to restore the salaries of Harry Cohn and Jack Cohn to their 1939 level and in favor of the issuance of stock purchase options noted in the proxy to A. Schneider," said a company statement.

Proposals for 33⅓ percent increases in the salaries of Harry Cohn and Jack Cohn, respectively, retroactive to July 1, 1943, for a period of two years, were submitted to the stockholders. The new employment contract for Harry Cohn provides for a weekly salary of $3,500 and a weekly expense allowance of $300, while Jack Cohn's contract stipulates a $2,000 salary and a $200 weekly expense allowance. The contracts are also subject to approval by the salary stabilization unit of the Treasury Department.

A resolution was introduced by William S. Wilson, stockholder of Greenwich, Conn., "expressing a note of appreciation of the stockholders to the officers for the management of the company's affairs."

The management indicated that estimated earnings for the second quarter, which ended in December, compares with and possibly may exceed the earnings in the first quarter, which ended last September and which amounted to $1,500,000 before taxes and $480,000 after taxes.

Century, Skouras In Same Building

Century Circuit and Skouras Theatres have jointly purchased the building at 132-36 West 43rd Street, New York, and will rename it the Century-Skouras Office Building. The circuits have equal interests in a group of theatres on Long Island, and will maintain separate offices, but will occupy the entire building. Plans for extensive alterations are being prepared.

Century Circuit is presently located at 50 Rockefeller Plaza and Skouras Theatres now have offices in the Paramount Building, at 1501 Broadway.

Rolfe, Composer, Dies

BRIGHTON, Mass., Jan. 18.—Walter L. Rolfe, 64, of Century Music Publishing Co., New York, and composer of 800 musical compositions, died yesterday at his home here.

His widow, Mrs. Catherine E. Rolfe; a son, Ted Rolfe, Brockton, Mass., and a daughter, Kathleen Rolfe, survive.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 18

S. BARRET McCORMICK and Terry Turner of RKO left here today for New Orleans; from there they will head for New York.

•

George L. Bagnall, United Artists' vice-president, will leave here Friday for the East for two weeks of conferences at the home office.

•

George Abbott and Sol Siegel will produce "Kiss and Tell," the Hugh Herbert play, for Columbia release; Herbert is preparing the script.

•

Paramount announced today a remake of "Charm School," costarring Dianna Lynn and Gail Russell.

•

Ned Depinet will leave here by plane for the East Friday.

RCA Will Release Limited Equipment

(*Continued from page* 1)

and medium-sized RCA sound equipments, BX-80 Brenkert projectors, N-100 Enarc lamps, BX-12 bases, 5035-type tube rectifiers, and PR-76 copper oxide rectifiers, some of the equipment being available for immediate shipment, Snook said.

Exhibitors who are eligible for such purchases under order L-325 are, roughly, those who can show that replacement of such equipment is necessary for the maintenance of civilian morale in their communities, or for other reasons related to the war program. Such necessity might be considered to exist where present equipment is completely worn out and beyond repair, or totally destroyed by fire, flood, or similar catastrophe, and where remaining facilities do not adequately meet the community's needs. In exceptional cases involving insufficient amusement facilities, an exhibitor may be eligible for equipment for initial installation rather than replacement, said RCA, which reminds dealers that permission secured from WPB by RCA to cover equipment ordered by a dealer for a specific sale to a theater or Government agency constitutes authorization for the entire transaction. When a dealer sells equipment from his stock, however, even though WPB approval was obtained by RCA to cover its sale to the dealer, the dealer must apply to the service equipment division of WPB in Washington for approval for his sale. This is done by filing Form WPB-3253, if the buyer is an exhibitor, or Form WPB-3254, if the buyer is a Government agency.

Riskin to Report on OWI Overseas Films

Robert Riskin, head of the Office of War Information's motion picture bureau, is due to return from overseas shortly with a report on American films being shown in the liberated areas of Italy and Sicily.

It is also expected that Riskin will provide the film industry with full information about the 40 American features taken by OWI for showing in liberated areas.

U. S. Checkup On Sales of Tickets Begun

(*Continued from page* 1)

is going to be made relative to the admissions to your place of business.

"In order to make a complete check it will be necessary for you to keep the stubs of your tickets and also cashiers' reports disclosing opening and closing numbers of the tickets used.

"Regulations quoted: 'All persons required to collect and account for tax on admissions must keep for possible inspection by revenue officers the portions of the tickets taken up by them, or, in the case of a cabaret or similar place, the waiters' checks, for a period of not less than six months."

"An appointment will be made in sufficient time in order that you can have all records available."

It could not be ascertained whether the Internal Revenue Bureau's new move to make periodic checkups on theatre admissions throughout the country is in any way related to proposals now under discussion here by which theatres would be required to use tickets produced by Government-licensed printers, as reported exclusively in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 17. The aim of that proposal, it is reported here, is to provide the Government with closer surveillance over ticket sales for tax collection purposes.

Await WLB Ruling On Petrillo Ban

A War Labor Board ruling on whether or not a strike is constituted by the refusal of American Federation of Musicians to make recordings can be expected in two or three weeks, according to Arthur S. Mayer, chairman of a special WLB panel here, appointed to gather facts in the dispute between James Petrillo's union and the recording companies.

If the panel finds the musicians to be on strike and the board accepts this opinion, then union members could be ordered back to work under the anti-strike law, with working conditions fixed by WLB. Since Aug. 3, when Meyer's investigating group was appointed, several electrical transcription companies and Decca Records, Inc., have signed agreements with AFM permitting them to make recordings for the first time since Aug. 1, 1942. Still holding out, however, are RCA Victor, Columbia Recording Corp. and National Broadcasting Co.'s radio recording division.

Petrillo contends that there is no strike but that his members simply did not want to go on making "canned" music that finally put musicians out of work. To help those thus made jobless the union contends it should have funds from the recorders. The WLB panel's report is expected to refer to this principle.

$200,000 for Ice Show

BOSTON, Jan. 18.—A gross of $200,000, new three-week record for the Boston Garden, was set by "Ice-capades" during its engagement here, which ended last week.

Cooperative Bond Ads in N. Y. Dailies

First of a series of special cooperative 4th War Bond theatre ads appeared in New York newspapers yesterday.

Cooperating in the series are the following theatres: Astor, Capitol, Criterion, Globe, Hollywood, Loew's State, Paramount, Radio City Music Hall, Rialto, Rivoli, RKO Palace, Roxy and Strand.

E. T. Carr Slated For Post with Rank

(*Continued from page* 1)

linquished his post at United Artists as foreign sales supervisor, is engaged in daily talks with Rank, hinting that they are concerned primarily with television.

As a symptom of the preoccupation of the British Government in this regard, Gerald Cock, pre-war British Broadcasting Company's television chief, and wartime BBC liaison to Hollywood, has been specially hired to advise a committee appointed by pressure of the House of Commons on potentialities and possibilities of postwar television which has been suspended here for security reasons in wartime. Cook is already discussing television's future with Rank's people, controllers of the Baird Television System.

Rank's Television Idea 'News' to NBC

National Broadcasting officials here yesterday disclaimed knowledge of negotiations with J. Arthur Rank for the televising of the latter's films in America through NBC television facilities, as reported by Rank in an interview published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY from London yesterday.

John F. Royal, NBC vice-president in charge of international relations, short-wave and television, said that he and Niles Trammell, NBC president, had met Rank socially during their recent visit in England, but denied that there had been any discussions concerning the use of NBC television by Rank.

Rank Interviewed

Rank in an interview with Peter Burnup, Quigley Publications' London editor, said that he had held discussions with NBC of New York looking to the use of the latter's television facilities here for previews of British films as part of a campaign to familiarize American audiences with Rank British product. NBC policy of televising films has been to avoid the use of films which would compete with those exhibited in theatres, it was disclosed.

Sales Drive to Mark Johnston's 30th Year

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 18.—The 37 Monogram branches in the United States and Canada will conduct a special sales campaign between Feb. 4 and 28 in honor of the 30th anniversary of Monogram president W. Ray Johnston's entrance into the picture business.

1,227 War Bond Premieres Already Set by Showmen

(*Continued from page* 1)

set 131 against 110; San Francisco, 122 against 80; Omaha, 44 against 23; Kansas City, 54 against 51; Cleveland, 25 against 14; Boston, 48 against 32; Cincinnati, 30 against 24.

Preceding a preview of Warner's "In Our Time" aboard the Statue of Liberty boat at Bledsoe's Island yesterday, representatives of 24 groups of foreign-born American citizens pledged more than $100,000,000 in 4th War Loan bonds.

The film, starring English-born Ida Lupino and Austrian-born Paul Henreid, was chosen because "it depicts the struggle for democracy in war-torn Europe," said Warner's, following a talk by Maj. Jean de Lustrac of the French army, an American citizen by virtue of being a direct descendant of General de Lafayette. The main address was delivered by Earl G. Harrison, U. S. commissioner of immigration and naturalization. Music was furnished by Army bands from Fort Totten and Fort Hamilton. WINS broadcast the ceremony and described the preview.

Loew's Would Sell 10 For Each Service Man

Loew's theatres both in and out of town are conducting a campaign with the slogan: "Cover Your Man With a Bond—Ten Bonds for Every Local Boy in Service."

The idea, which originated with the war savings staff and theatre committee in White Plains during the 3rd War Loan Drive, calls for each of many volunteers to receive a card bearing the name of a service man and to sell 10 $25 bonds in his honor. The successful salesmen will be given lapel tags, and flags will be stenciled beside the bond-honored names on theatre-lobby honor rolls.

The Loew theatres yesterday sold more individual bonds than in any previous 10 days since the houses became issuing agents. C. C. Moskowitz and J. R. Vogel estimated that some 3,000 bonds were sold throughout the circuits. This represents nearly 10 per cent of the 312,000 seats.

Ticket Sale for Roxy Show Begins Friday

Tickets for the Feb. 11 midnight War Bond show at the Roxy Theatre will go on sale Friday at the Astor, Capitol, Criterion, Globe, Hollywood, State, Palace, Paramount, Rialto, Rivoli, Strand, Music Hall and Roxy Theatres. There are 2,000 reserved seats available to purchasers of $25 bonds and 2,200 to purchasers of $50 bonds.

The show will combine the stars and bands from the Capitol, Music Hall, Paramount, Roxy, State and Strand, plus headliners from night clubs, musical shows, radio and Hollywood.

Arkansas Governor Commends Industry

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 18.—In his weekend proclamation here on the 4th War Loan Drive, Governor Homer W. Adkins commended to the people of Arkansas the patriotic endeavor of the motion picture industry and the War Activities Committee. He also paid tribute to the memory of Carole Lombard.

Under the sponsorship of local theatre men large War Bond advertisements appeared in yesterday's papers.

Mobile Units Canvass Greater Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 18.—A theatre manager in each district of Greater Los Angeles has been assigned to convert an auto into a mobile bond-issuing agency so that a house-to-house canvass from San Pedro to Van Nuys can be made.

Dave Bershon's Southern California theatre bond committee, working with the Los Angeles Citizens War Service Corps, will send out 86 units in this effort.

'Free Movie Day' in Idaho Cities Today

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 18.—Tomorrow is "Free Movie Day" in Boise, Twin Falls, Nampa, Caldwell, Idaho Falls and dozens of other southern Idaho cities. During February there will be at least 40 bond premieres in this area, where Nevin Ford, state public relations chairman, is handling the publicity.

Memphis Using 'Truth And Consequences' Show

MEMPHIS, Jan. 18.—"Truth and Consequences," national radio program, will originate in the Municipal Auditorium here on Jan. 29, with Le Bonheur, women's social and welfare organization, determined to sell $2,500,000 worth of war bonds as admission to the show.

Four Bond Premieres Slated in Baltimore

BALTIMORE, Jan. 18.—Four first-run theatres here will offer premiere showings of feature films as a contribution to the 4th War Loan Drive. They are the Stanley, Century, Hippodrome and Keith's.

Admissions will be through purchase of Series E bonds, ranging from $25 to $100. Frank A. Hornig, president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Maryland, said the state's movie industry has organized to help Maryland again become the first state to reach its quota, which is $191,000,000.

William K. Saxton, manager of Loew's Century, is in charge of the local industry's bond activities and J. Lawrence Schanberger, manager of Keith's, is co-chairman. Other chairmen for various sections of the city include Martin Rogers, Elmer Nolte, Meyer Leventhal, Robert Ashcroft and William Zell.

Jeanette MacDonald At Publishers' Meet

ALBANY, Jan. 18.—A special message on the "Bond for Every Seat" campaign will be presented tomorrow night by Jeanette MacDonald at the quadrennial Albany meeting of the New York State Publishers Association, the Associated Dailies and the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors.

Miss MacDonald will head a Hollywood caravan including Albert Dekker and Helen Walker plus war heroes Sgt. Alex. J. Kolonics, Corp. Andrew Ruscansky and Coast Guard Machinist's Mate Robert J. Croak. Governor Thomas E. Dewey will be the keynote speaker.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war bond campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

RALPH BATCHET, Bluebeard Theatre, Denver.

KENNETH WORKMAN, United Artists Theatre, Berkeley, Cal.

HARRY SEIPEL, California Theatre, San Jose, Cal.

VIC GAUNTLETT, Moore Theatre, Seattle.

CLIFF TISSEMAN, Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco.

BILL HENDRICKS, Warner's Downtown Theatre, Los Angeles.

CHARLES A. ZINN, Century Theatre, Minneapolis.

LAMAR SWIFT, Lucas & Jenkins Theatres, Macon, Ga.

DENNIS MONTEZ, Fox Regent Theatre, Newton, Kan.

WALLY AKIN, Abilene, Tex.

CLEMENT DILLON KREPPS, Fox Theatre, Hackensack, N. J.

LOU LEVY, Paramount Theatre, Brooklyn, N. Y.

S. H. COLEMAN, Eufaula, Ala.

600 Attend M. P. Associates Induction

(*Continued from page* 1)

treasurer; Morris Fraum, recording secretary; Charles Penser, financial secretary; Harry Furst, sergeant-at-arms, and Seymour Schussel and Leo Abrams, trustees.

The luncheon also marked the 25th anniversary of the organization and the opening of the industry's all-out participation in the 4th War Loan Drive and the March of Dimes and Red Cross Blood Bank campaigns.

James J. Walker, acting as toastmaster, introduced Jack Ellis, new vice-president and retiring president, who commended William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president, for enlisting 300 new MPA members. Sanders, new president, traced the origin of the organization and stressed that it now has 550 members. Walker, in a brief address, lauded the industry's constructive spirit.

Skouras, Nizer Speak

Charles P. Skouras, industry chairman of the 4th War Loan Drive, revealed that 1,238 bond premieres have already been held. Louis Nizer, film attorney, stressed the need for more blood plasma and even greater support for the bond and March of Dimes drives. Arlene Francis, star of "The Doughgirls," and Harry Brandt also spoke.

Among those on the dais were: Edward Alperson, Jessie Stern, H. H. Buxbaum, Robert Wolff, Malcolm Kingsberg, Robert Mochrie, Skouras, Martin Quigley, A. W. Smith, Jr., Nizer, Sanders, Walker, Ellis, Miss Francis, Sam Rinzler, Brandt, Joseph Bernhard, Fred Schwartz, Don Jacocks, Harry Lowenstein, Max Cohen, Tom Connors, B. V. Sturdivant, Rick Ricketson, Vincent Trotta, Jack Alicoate and Chic Lewis.

America's No. 1
RADIO COMEDIENNE in
the Merriest-Go-Round of Romance
Rhythm, Roars you ever saw!

JOAN DAVIS



Beautiful BUT BROKE

with
JANE FRAZEE
JOHN HUBBARD
JUDY CLARK
BOB HAYMES and
WILLIE, WEST and McGINTY

Screen Play by Monte Brice
Directed by CHARLES BARTON
Produced by IRVING BRISKIN
A COLUMBIA PICTURE

THE MOST FEROCIOUS SHE-WOLF YOU EVER HOWLED AT...



A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT!
FOURTH WAR LOAN

FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 14 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1944 TEN CENTS

Ticket Action May Be Asked Of Congress

Licensing Will Not Be Method of Control

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Recommendations of the Internal Revenue Bureau for legislation authorizing the imposition of some sort of control on ticket printers has been before the Treasury Department for some time, it was learned today. A spokesman for the Bureau said that the question of licensing had been exhaustively studied and had been dropped in favor of some other type of control, the form of which was not divulged. However, it was learned that the new control measures which will be sought will require Congressional action.

Any recommendation which the Treasury may send to Congress will probably be included in proposals for changes in the administrative provisions of the law which may be sent to the Capitol this year if further tax legislation is taken up.

Meanwhile, it was indicated here that the current checkup on theatre admission records being instituted by

(*Continued on page 6*)

IEF Will Submit Proposals to Clark

CINCINNATI, Jan. 19.—At the invitation of Assistant Attorney-General Tom C. Clark, the Indignant Exhibitors Forum here will submit proposals to solve the problem of film allocations through consent decree provisions. Clark, in an answer to a tele-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Skouras Gives Scroll To First Bond Buyer

Charles Skouras, chairman of the industry's 4th War Loan drive, yesterday presented a citation to Joseph Reich, 24-year-old Purple Heart veteran, who was the first bond purchaser in the New York theatre campaign. The ceremony, held in the headquarters of the War Finance Committee here was attended by W. Randolph Burgess, WFC chairman; B. V. Sturdivant, WAC campaign director; Edward L. Alperson, N. Y. chairman; Harry Brandt, Manhattan chairman; and Laraine Day.

Theatre Cooling Systems Will Not Cool This Year

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Very few theatres will have air-conditioning this coming summer. An increasingly serious shortage of freon gas will make it impossible for exhibitors to secure any of the refrigerant for theatre use, it was learned here tonight.

The War Production Board is expected tomorrow to issue an amendment to its freon conservation order, extending to Aug. 31 the restrictions now due to expire on March 31, under which delivery of the gas for use in theatres is prohibited.

Board officials said tonight that the freon situation today is more serious than ever before, largely because the increasing number of ships now coming off the ways is using up available supplies rapidly. There is no prospect, it was said, that the situation will be

(*Continued on page 6*)

Tax Bill to Make Exempt Groups File

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—The MPPDA, the MPTOA, Allied States, all state exhibitor organizations, and guilds, unions and other non-profit groups in the industry will be required to file with the Treasury Dept. informational returns on their finances, expenditures and sources of income if a House-and-Senate-approved provision in the new tax bill becomes law.

The provision, designed primarily as a means of checking on finances of labor unions, the political activities of which have been under fire, was approved by the Senate this week when it voted down, by 43 to 34, a motion by Senator Bennett C. Clark to strike out the dues-checking provision. Some 300,000 organizations not subject to income tax would be affected.

Await Depinet on Wolff's Successor

Designation of a successor to Robert Wolff, RKO Metropolitan district manager whose appointment as RKO British managing director was announced by Phil Reisman, the company's foreign director in London, yesterday, is not expected until Ned E. Depinet, RKO Radio president, returns to New York from the Coast next week. Phil Hodes, veteran of 20 years with the company, has been Wolff's assistant.

Wolff is not expected to leave for England to assume his new post for a couple of weeks.

Collection of Full 1943 Commissions Permitted by Gov't

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—The Internal Revenue Bureau tonight announced the policy to be maintained toward commission and percentage-type compensation this year, including a provision permitting the collection of full 1943 percentages by persons who were restricted under regulations previously in effert.

Formal regulations have not yet been drafted, it was stated by Commissioner Robert E. Hannegan, but the new policy will be made effective immediately. In the case of companies which withheld part of percentages due employees because of previous regulations, it was ruled, supple-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Field Reports Flood Bond Headquarters

The industry's 4th War Loan drive got off to a flying start throughout the country, according to bond bulletin wires and long-distance calls received yesterday at the New York headquarters of national bond chairman Charles P. Skouras. Some highlights of "kickoff" events follow:

In Chicago, Jinx Falkenberg opened the campaign from a Helldiver plane at State and Madison Sts. and at a bond show at the Treasury center, capturing the highest bond pledges in

(*Continued on page 6*)

Hearings Delay Film Unit of State Dept.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Announcement of the new motion picture division of the State Department may be delayed a few days, it is indicated here.

Officials of the Department concerned with the reorganization announced by Secretary Cordell Hull on Jan. 15 have spent most of their time at the Capitol, testifying before a House appropriations subcommittee which is working on the State Department supply bill for the coming fiscal year, and at which the new organization aimed at post-war operations is being explained.

Films Will Aid Army Return To Civilian Life

Huge Re-indoctrination Program for Post-War

By JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM

One of the biggest motion picture producing programs ever undertaken by Government or industry is understood to be contemplated by the United States Army for re-indoctrinating millions of soldiers for their return to civilian life when peace comes.



Staff Photo
Col. Frank Capra

Col. Frank Capra will handle the vast program, in his new capacity of officer in charge of special services for the photographic section of the Signal Corps; he will be assisted by Lt. Col Emanuel (Manny) Cohen.

As special services chief, Col. Capra now has complete super-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Seeks Boyer, Others, For Rank Picture

Dr. Alexander Galperson, visiting here as distribution representative of Two Cities Films, one of the J. Arthur Rank British producing companies, will seek to interest Hollywood stars and technicians of French descent to participate in the production of a film

(*Continued on page 6*)

To Keep Increase On Admission Tax

Washington, Jan. 19.—The Senate, to all intents and purposes, disposed of the admission tax issue today when, by voice vote, it rejected Senator Revercomb's amendment to exempt motion picture theatres from the increased levy.

Revercomb brought up his amendment to exempt film theatres under an agreement reached yesterday with Senator George, chairman of the Finance Committee.

WPB Revises Order On Repair Parts

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—In a move to assure an absolutely unimpeded flow of repair parts to exhibitors, Allen G. Smith, chief of the WPB Theatre Service Division, today issued a revision of the projection equipment limitation order, L-325, restricting controls to complete sound heads, amplifying systems, loud speaker systems and arc lamp and lamp house units, which formerly were listed in the order without the word "complete."

Smith explained that no difficulties have been encountered under the original order, but that it was his desire that there be no possibility of misinterpretation which might cause delay of such equipment. Except to specify that the controls would be only on complete systems, no changes were made in the order, under which exhibitors are enabled to secure repair and replacement parts from their dealers without any contact with the WPB.

UIE Sets Scully Talks for Feb. 7

The New York Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors trade practice committee is tentatively scheduled to meet with William J. Scully, Universal general sales manager, during the week of Feb. 7. Scully is now on the Coast, and is not expected back at the home office before that date.

Meanwhile, the UIE committee met this week with Robert Mochrie, RKO general sales manager, and Robert S. Wolff, New York branch manager, to discuss trade practice problems, particularly film terms and selling of shorts. The committee asked a standardization of film rentals predicated on gross receipts and operating expenses of a normal theatre operation. Mochrie informed UIE representatives that adjustments would be made if individual situations warranted; he authorized Wolff to act accordingly.

Pennsylvania Allied Will Hear Myers

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19.—Abram Myers, national Allied general counsel, will be the principal speaker at a dinner to be held Jan. 24 at the Hotel Warwick here by Eastern Pennsylvania Allied for all independent exhibitors in this territory. The dinner will climax Eastern Allied's sixth annual meeting.

Allied Board Meeting Switched to Chicago

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Annual meeting of Allied's board of directors, originally set for New York, will be held in Chicago, Feb. 2-3. On the agenda is the election of officers for the coming year.

Columbia Dividend

Columbia Pictures announced yesterday that the board of directors has voted a dividend of 68¾ cents per share on the $2.75 convertible preferred stock, payable Feb. 15 to stockholders of record, Feb. 1.

Personal Mention

HERBERT WILCOX is expected in New York from London in the near future.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists Western division manager, became a grandfather for the second time recently. His daughter, MRS. BEVERLY LIGHTSTONE, is the mother of a baby girl, JOAN, born at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal.

•

F. A. ROHRS, PRC southern division manager, is spending a few days in Omaha prior to the appointment of a new branch manager there to succeed BERNARD MARINER, who entered the Marine Corps.

•

ALBERT WEISMAN, former St. Louis correspondent for MOTION PICTURE DAILY, visited St. Louis on a furlough this week. He is now attached to the special service command at Fort Ord, Cal.

•

EARL WINGART of the Eastern public information committee is on loan to the War Activities Committee to assist with publicity on the 4th War Loan Drive.

•

JOHN FRITCHER, Minneapolis booking manager for Paramount, is seriously ill in a hospital there. GIL SESSLER, salesman at the exchange, gave him a blood transfusion.

•

MARK L. MOODY, producer of "Ravaged Earth," has arrived in New York from Hollywood following a Central American tour.

•

SAMUEL BRONSTON, United Artists producer, will leave for Hollywood today after a two months' stay in New York.

•

VOLDEMAR VENTLUGUIN, special assistant to LOUIS B. MAYER, as editorial consultant, will arrive from the Coast Friday.

•

E. T. GOMERSALL, Universal assistant sales manager, is in New Haven today and will be in Pittsburgh tomorrow.

•

IRA H. COHN, 20th-Fox Buffalo branch manager, is expected in New York Jan. 25.

•

SYDNEY SAMSON, 20th-Fox Canadian district manager, and his family, were recent visitors in Buffalo.

•

IZZY RAPPAPORT of the Baltimore Hippodrome, is in town.

SI FABIAN left yesterday for South Bend, Ind., where his son EDWARD L. FABIAN, will be graduated at Notre Dame University as an ensign.

•

CARL LESERMAN, general sales manager of UA, expects to leave for Hollywood in about three weeks. GRADWELL L. SEARS, vice-president in charge of distribution, will remain in New York until DAVID O. SELZNICK completes "Since You Went Away."

•

CHARLES EINFELD is coming East from Hollywood in March. On his return to the Coast, MORT BLUMENSTOCK, eastern director of advertising and publicity for Warner, probably will accompany him.

•

SI SEADLER is building up to another Palm Springs vacation, sometime in late February. He intends visiting the M-G-M studio at the same time, of course.

•

JOHN WOOD, March of Time business manager, and GEORGE A. ROBERTS, 20th-Fox March of Time sales supervisor, will leave today on a tour of Eastern exchanges.

•

RODNEY BUSH and JULES FIELD of the 20th-Fox exploitation department, will leave today for Philadelphia on company business.

•

ARNOLD STOLTZ, United Artists exploitation director, and ROBERT GOODFRIED, his assistant, left for Cincinnati last night.

•

LEON SCHLESINGER, cartoon producer for Warner, leaves for Hot Springs, Ark., tonight. After three weeks there, he returns to Hollywood.

•

BEN KALMENSON, general sales manager for Warner, is due from the Coast tomorrow.

•

DON MCELWAINE, short-stay visitor from the M-G-M studio, leaves for the Coast today.

•

PAUL N. LAZARUS, JR., director of advertising and publicity for UA, leaves for Hollywood Friday.

•

SIDNEY ALEXANDER, Columbia advertising executive, has been granted a commission in the Merchant Marine.

•

DANIEL ROTHENBERG of Columbia's home office is in New Haven.

Grafton To Resume Rodgers Examination

Examination before trial of W. F. Rodgers, M-G-M distribution vice-president, and Howard Dietz, advertising-publicity vice-president, will be resumed next week, in the $1,000,000 damage suit filed in the New York Federal Court against Loew's by Grafton Films.

Suit alleges improper distribution of Grafton's "The Stars Look Down." Listed next for examination is Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's.

Ontario Legislature Awaits Dominion Tax

TORONTO, Jan. 19.—The opening of the Ontario Legislature has been delayed to Feb. 22, according to announcement by the new Premier, Col. George Drew, in order to admit Federal Government tax measures which may have a bearing on new taxation steps by the Ontario Government. There is yet no hint of any change in the Federal amusement tax of 20 per cent, which is expected to show a revenue of $9,000,000 for 1944.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 19

WARNER BROS. studio announced today they have sold $150,000 in 4th War Loan bonds in the first two days of the drive toward their quota of $1,000,000.

•

Members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' short subjects branch will hold a preliminary screening of shorts submitted by studios nominating more than one in each classification for consideration of annual awards. The final judging will be held Feb. 15.

•

Hollywood Victory Committee today added Fred MacMurray, Anne Baxter, Anthony Quinn and Frances Day to the "War Bondbardier" forces.

•

Corp. Peter S. Scully, former player at Universal, has been promoted to sergeant in the Marine Corps at Quantico, Va.

•

William Collier, Sr., silent screen star, who died recently, left an estate of $200,000, his will revealed here today.

•

Hunt Stromberg has signed Lewis Milestone to direct United Artists' "Guest in the House."

Weshner Opens Own Publicity Office Here

David E. Weshner, formerly director of advertising and publicity for United Artists here, has opened his own publicity and public relations office at 18 East 48th St., New York.

Weshner previously had been with Warner Bros. Theatres for 13 years, during which he not only functioned as its national director of advertising and publicity, but subsequently operated theatres as zone manager in New Jersey, Wisconsin and Philadelphia. More recently he was identified with the promotional campaign on Noel Coward's "In Which We Serve" for United Artists, and the national publicity coverage he channelled as publicity consultant for Walt Disney's "Victory Through Air Power."

Loew & Hakim File Incorporation Papers

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19. — Incorporation papers for Loew-Hakim Inc. to produce pictures are on file with the Los Angeles County clerk. Papers set forth there are 1,000 shares of stock with a value of $50,000. David L. Loew, David Tannebaum and Robert Hakim are listed as incorporators. Hakim is reportedly conferring with United Artists on possible release arrangements.

Loew is also associated with Producing Artists, recently formed by Arthur S. Lyons and himself, to release through U. A.

Trent With Pavona

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 19.—Philip Trent, formerly of the Universal office in Philadelphia, has joined John Pavona of Universal's sales staff here.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Coast House Suing In 'Wildcat' Strike

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 19.—Legal action seeking declaratory relief as the result of a "wildcat" strike of pit musicians at the Orpheum Theatre last week, causing manager Sherill Corwin to make the house an all-film first-run moveover, is now being prepared, a theatre spokesman told MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Corwin said, "We intend to take every legal step necessary to protec our rights and obligations, not only with regard to various agreements for future services of persons previously engaged, but those persons with whom we hold contracts covering their present services."

The strike, musicians' Local No. 47 spokesmen declared, was unauthorized but they said the pit bandmen could not be forced to work. It resulted over wage increase demands. Corwin, in a letter to the union, blamed it for dodging its responsibilities and stated the theatre management was willing to take wage raise demands to the War Labor Board, which turned down similar increases April last.

TBA Will Seek Television Changes

Television Broadcasters Association, organized at a meeting held in Chicago on Tuesday, expects immediate action to obtain for television allocations of radio channels in keeping with the possibilities of television as a future public service, Allen B. Du Mont, chairman of the organization committee, stated here yesterday.

TBA came into existence at the Chicago meeting attended by television officials and executives from all parts of the country. In addition to Du Mont, other members of the organization committee are: F. J. Bingley, Robert L. Gibson, O. B. Hanson, C. W. Mason, E. A. Hayes, Worthington Miner, Paul Raibourne and Lewis Allen Weiss.

J. J. Theatres Asks Majors' Examination

New York Supreme Court Justice Charles B. McLaughlin here yesterday reserved decision on the motion of J. J. Theatres, Inc., operators of the Time Theatre, Manhattan, for an order directing examination before trial of major distributors and independent exhibitors in the metropolitan area who allegedly conspired to restrain trade.

The distributors are 20th Century-Fox, RKO, Warners, Paramount, Loew's, United Artists, Columbia and Universal. The independents are Iris Joyce, Inc., Anwell Amusement, Helgus Corp., Andear Amusement, Max Cohen and William and Harry Brandt.

Five Salesmen Inducted

Five more Paramount salesmen have been inducted. John Vos, Denver, will leave Saturday, and will be succeeded by Harvey Rosenbloom, student salesman. The others are Frank Rule, Dallas; George de Waide, Portland; Howard Nicholson, Oklahoma City; John Kent, Seattle.

M-G-M Shorts at Canteen

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will screen three short subjects for men of the armed forces at the Stage Door Canteen here tonight at 5 o'clock.

Review

"Lady, Let's Dance"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, Jan. 19

SCOTT R. DUNLAP'S production is an entertaining musical, presenting a series of spectacular dance and ice-skating sequences superbly staged by Dave Gould. The finale especially, in which Belita performs an enchanting ice-dance to the music of Beethoven's Fifth symphony, brought applause and whistles of appreciation from the preview audience.

Belita, whose earlier picture, "Silver Skates," demonstrated that she is a superlative skater, now, in "Lady Let's Dance," reveals herself to be a talented and graceful dancer as well. The entire picture is built around her ability and personality. On ice she is ably supported by Frick and Frack, comedy team whose antics defy the law of gravity. Their buffoonery in two numbers, "Days of the Beau Brummel," and "Happy Hearts," is particularly notable.

Like most musicals, this one has an inconsequential story thread, but Frank Woodruff's direction handled it skillfully, leading the spectator from one beautiful production number to the next with a minimum of tedium in between. Walter Catlett contributes the outstanding comedy performance as the whacky millionaire playboy, and James Ellison does what he can with a somewhat unsympathetic romantic lead. Lucien Littlefield's role, though small, adds considerably to the entertainment.

The four songs are by David Oppenheim and Ted Groya, and their "Days of the Beau Brummel" lingers tunefully in the memory. Another song, "Silver Shadows and Golden Dreams," by Lew Pollack and Charles Newman, provides the background for an extremely effective sequence. The screenplay is by Peter Milne and Paul Gerard Smith, adapted from an original story by Bradbury Foote and Scott R. Dunlap. Trem Carr was executive director.

Running time, 88 mins. Release date, March 7. "G."*

THALIA BELL

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Civic Leaders and OWI Discuss Films

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Representatives of a score of national civic organizations met here today with Office of War Information officials, state and local war film coordinators and film distributors to hear reports from various federal and other agencies on their film services and facilities.

The meeting was called by Stanton Griffis, director of OWI's motion picture bureau, to develop plans for making better use of the Government's 16 mm. non-theatrical war films, a number of which were screened for the conference this morning. The sessions will continue tomorrow.

Myerburg Gets $50,000 For Disney Financing

A New York Supreme Court jury before Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Church here yesterday awarded Michael Myerburg, theatrical producer, $50,000 for his services in arranging the 1940 refinancing of Walt Disney Productions, Inc., after a week's trial.

Under the award, which the defendants plan to appeal, Disney would have to pay Myerburg $20,000, and the banking firm of Kidder, Peabody and Co., which underwrote the $3,750,000 issue of 150,000 shares of preferred stock offered by Disney, would pay $30,000.

'Ersatz' Junket

Because of wartime travel restrictions, United Artists has abandoned a junket to New York for 100 film critics to preview Producers' Corp. of America's "Knickerbocker Holiday." Instead, UA has sent each critic appropriate souvenirs of a New York tour.

Full Commissions Permitted by Gov't

(*Continued from page* 1)

mentary payments may now be paid to adjust the 1943 payments to the new policy.

The new policy permits payment of commissions and percentages due employees without regard to the dollar amount, so long as the rate of commission or percentage has not been increased since the beginning of the salary stabilization program on Oct. 3, 1942.

With respect to executives, branch managers and others earning overriding commissions or percentage bonuses, employers are authorized to adjust any 1943 payments in accord with the new policy. If the percentage, method of computation or base salary has changed and the employer believes an adjustment is warranted, the Bureau said, he may apply for a ruling to the field office of the Salary Stabilization unit in the region in which the employer has his principal place of business.

Kill One-Cent Levy On L. A. Admissions

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 19.—The city council today killed, by a vote of 11 to 1, a proposed one-cent amusement admission tax after Hollywood councilman Lloyd Davies and Chamber of Commerce president John B. Kingsley charged the proposed ordinance was discriminatory. Councilman Delamere McCloskey's efforts to keep the measure alive was overwhelmingly defeated.

Proceeds from the tax on film admissions were intended for repairing the city's sewers.

Many Start 'Dimes' Collections Today

Following the example of major circuits who will begin "March of Dimes" collections with today's change of program, hundreds of theatres throughout the country will start at the same time rather than wait for the official opening of the drive on Monday.

Ohio's state committee has advised the national executive committee that the 184 theatres in Akron, Dayton and Cleveland have signed up 100 per cent for audience collections.

Over 500 acceptances have been received from exhibitors who will attend a "March of Dimes" breakfast in the Hotel Astor, New York, tomorrow.

Over 900 radio stations will advertise the campaign next week, using 18 different spot announcements.

Chicago Becomes No. 1 Labor Shortage Area

Industry officials here were uncertain this week whether the War Manpower Commission's designation of metropolitan Chicago as a "No. 1 critical labor shortage area" as of Feb. 1 would have any effect on theatres there. It was pointed out that the 48-hour week has already been invoked for Chicago and that theatres and exchanges have applied for exemption. Exemption is granted if applicant can show that a damaging loss of employees will result from application of the rule.

Manpower Commission officials declare that the inability of heavy industries to use women, the limited success of recent labor-recruiting campaigns, and Selective Service withdrawals are factors contributing to the necessity for a change in Chicago.

Lynch Named Mono. Manager at Calgary

TORONTO, Jan. 19.—Monogram Pictures of Canada, Ltd., has appointed George Lynch, for 20 years with Paramount Film Service, as manager of the Calgary branch succeeding Max Phillet who has become manager of the Gem Theatre, Edmonton, recently purchased by his brother, Harry Phillet, who was previously an exhibitor at Dawson Creek.

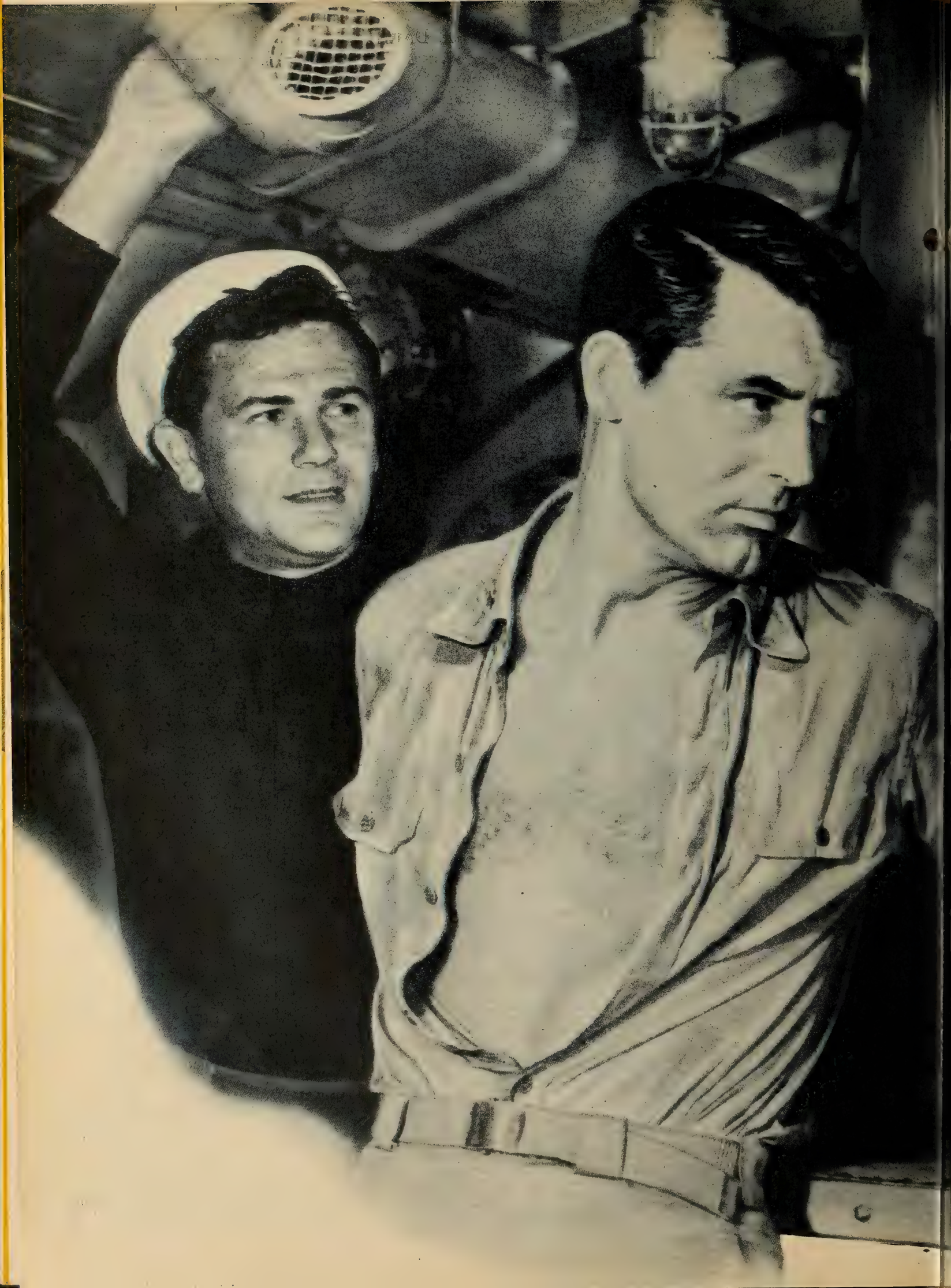
Nathanson General Manager for Berger

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 19.—Ben Nathanson, former Minneapolis Republic franchise owner, has become general manager of Berger Amusement circuit. He was appointed by president Ben Berger to succeed Gil Swenberger, who is now with the armed forces in Georgia.

Nathanson is also interested in the operation of theatres at Detroit Lakes and Cloquet, Minn.

Paramount Fashion Show

Women in uniform, from all Allied Nations' military services, will be guests of Paramount at a fashion show to be held Sunday afternoon, Feb. 6, at the Women's Miltary Services Club here. It will feature outfits worn by Ginger Rogers, Phyllis Brooks and others in Paramount's soon-to-be-released "Lady in the Dark."





COVER THE ENTIRE EXHIBITION FIELD AND AGAIN YOU WILL FIND THAT THE BIGGEST PICTURE IS A WARNER BROS. PICTURE!

CARY GRANT

AND

JOHN GARFIELD

IN

"DESTINATION TOKYO"

with DANE CLARK · ROBERT HUTTON · WARNER ANDERSON

ALAN HALE • JOHN RIDGELY • WILLIAM PRINCE

Directed by DELMER DAVES • Produced by JERRY WALD

Films Will Aid Army Return To Civilian Life

(Continued from page 1)

vision over every single phase of Signal Corps filming except the production of actual training pictures. His jurisdiction applies to Signal Corps filming both at home and abroad, including invasion and battle filming and such special events as the Quebec, Teheran and similar conferences of Roosevelt, Churchill and other United Nations' bigwigs.

With the armed services practically at the saturation point in need for training films, the Signal Corps plans to move a comparative skeleton training film crew from present headquarters at its Astoria, L. I., studio, to Hollywood, and to gradually disperse that unit, hiring out the production of any needed training subjects to Hollywood producers on an Army-bid basis. The limited needs henceforth will not require the continued maintenance or expense of a training film photographic section as large as the present one.

Films to Teach in Post-War

The Army, like other service branches, has long since acknowledged the invaluable aid given the war effort by the use of motion pictures in quickly and more efficiently training millions of soldiers and it is the intention to adapt the media in much greater fashion for post-war re-education. Production base will continue at Astoria, where both Col. Capra and Lt. Col. Cohen will maintain headquarters, with either or both of the officers constantly commuting between New York and the War Department in Washington and with Capra occasionally making trips to the war fronts abroad.

Mayer to Capital on New Army Film Set-up

The War Department's industrial service film division, for which Arthur L. Mayer is slated to act as adviser, is understood to have already arranged screenings at numerous war plants of films pertinent to armament production.

Heading the list of films already available is a 45-minute feature titled "The War Department Reports," but most of the films already prepared or contemplated will be much shorter. New production plans call for two films a month to be prepared by Lt Col. Emanuel Cohen, in charge of compilation and production, with Capt. Kenneth M. McKenna as assistant. Capt. Monroe Greenthal has been handling promotion through Army officers in the various commands, and will continue to do so under the new Mayer set-up, it is understood.

Mayer was in Washington this week to consult with Army executives on the project and it is expected that full details will be released shortly.

New B'nai B'rith Date

The annual theatre party of Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith, to see Michael Todd's "Mexican Hayride," has been shifted from the Imperial, where the play was originally scheduled to open, to the Winter Garden, where it is now booked. The date, Feb. 23, remains the same.

Field Floods Headquarters With Bond 'Kickoff' Reports

(Continued from page 1)

the history of the center. She then went to Waukegan, Ill., and sold bonds to American Steel and Wire workers.

In Albany the industry spotlighted the opening of the drive when Jeannette MacDonald received from State Comptroller Frank Moore a pledge for the purchase of $10,000,000 worth of bonds by the State. Albert Dekker, another Hollywood personality who is heading a Bond Battalion touring the Albany territory, acted as master of ceremonies.

The Hollywood personalities and a group of war heroes appeared at an opening "Bondbardier" performance at Chancellor's Hall following a banquet at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel.

Four bond sales for each theatre seat was the pledge of Balaban & Katz managers at a luncheon in Chicago yesterday. Walter Immerman, general manager, purchased a $25 bond for each of the 54 theatres of Balaban & Katz in the Greater Chicago area. John Balaban and Dave Wallerstein were the principal speakers, stressing that the sales in the new drive should be above the weekly average for the past year.

Opening Day Record

In Portland, Ore., more than 6,000 bought "E" bond admissions to the municipal auditorium to hear Dinah Shore and Gene Kelly launch the campaign. Portland's WAC committee teamed with the Hollywood Victory committee to set a new record for "E" bond sales on the opening day.

Indianapolis reported that Cecilia Parker and Dana Andrews opened the drive at the RCA plant and secured pledges for a $100 bond from each of 3,000 employes.

Denver sent word that the opening of the drive there was the greatest in the city's history. An "Invasion of Denver" caravan with bands and army equipment, Hollywood stars and war heroes visited the Governor and Mayor. Sirens and bugles heralded their arrival.

Minneapolis saw Dennis Morgan, Hollywood star, open the drive.

In St. Louis, all 110 theatres are holding "Free Movie" shows. The dates set are Jan. 18, 24, 31 and Feb. 7 and 15. All theatres will group together to advertise the shows. In addition four "Bond Premieres" have been scheduled for downtown houses. Harry Arthur, local chairman, also has arranged an Army Engineers exhibit from Feb. 4 to 13.

Ann Savage and Lon Chaney, Jr., will start a bond selling tour through the Carolinas, opening in Asheville Jan. 22, under sponsorship of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina. Al Burkes of the Charlotte branch of M-G-M will manage the tour.

Buffalo Augments Committee

Buffalo announced an augmented list of bond co-chairmen for the exchange area there, including Phil Fox, Ralph W. Maw, Harry L. Berkson, Jack Goldstein, J. S. Berkson, Elmer Lux, Jack Bellman, Ira H. Cohn, Matthew V. Sullivan, Jr., A. I. Weiner and Al Herman.

The committee for the "Million Dollar War Bond Show" to be held by New York first runs at the Roxy theatre at midnight on Friday, Feb. 11, has been set by Irving Lesser, chairman of the Broadway theatre bond group. Co-chairmen include A. J. Balaban and Jack A. Partington; the advisory council is made up of Robert Weitman, G. S. Eyssell, Zeb Epstin, Joseph Vogel, C. C. Moskowitz and Harry Brandt.

Arthur Knorr of the Roxy production staff has been named producer of the show. Sam Rauch, also of the Roxy, has been named head of talent.

Warners' home office will award ten $50 war bonds as prizes to employe purchasers of extra bonds during the drive. Every purchaser of a bond from Dec. 1, 1943 to Feb. 15, 1944 is eligible.

May Ask Congress For Ticket Action

(Continued from page 1)

deputy collectors in various sections of the country is not based on what is regarded here as any widespread evasion of admission taxes by theatre operators. In addition, it was learned that the checkups probably were not instigated by Washington but resulted from routine operations of the field offices.

As reported exclusively in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday, Wisconsin theatre operators were among the first to be notified by a regional Internal Revenue Bureau office of an imminent checkup on admissions. Similar notifications are reported to have been made in other sections of the country as well.

One Million for 'Bell'

The one millionth person to see "For Whom the Bell Tolls" at the Rivoli here is expected to arrive at the box-office this morning. Number 1,000,000 will receive a war bond from Paramount, presented by R. M. Weitman, who has been in charge of the house throughout the run.

IEF Will Submit Proposals to Clark

(Continued from page 1)

gram sent him by the IEF on Jan. 6, indicated that his Department is interested in preventing the forcing of films generally rather than in confining itself to the problem of percentage pictures alone.

One suggestion forwarded by the IEF is for an unrestricted cancellation clause as an answer to forced percentages. They look to some such provision in the decree in anticipation of the time when more product will be released.

An "allocation board" set up in each distribution center, patterned after the film board arbitration, is proposed as a control over inflated allocations as well as percentage engagements. Such a board would comprise three exhibitors, one from each type of theatre group, and three distributors.

Guild Gives Ambulance

The Catholic Actors Guild here will present a field ambulance to the Army at ceremonies to be held tomorrow at 3 p.m. at the Hotel Astor.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war bond campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

HARDIE MEAKIN, Keith's Theatre, Washington, D. C.

ALEXANDER G. PLUCHOS, Keith's Theatre, White Plains, N. Y.

CLIFFORD R. LINDBLAD, Rio Grande Theatre, Las Cruces, New Mex.

MICHAEL EVAN, Voge Theatre, East Chicago, Ind.

OSCAR F. NYEBERG, Fox Theatre, Spokane.

AL MESKIS, Egyptian Theatre, Milwaukee.

TOM MAINE, Jefferson Theatre, Lafayette, La.

HARRY H. HUNSAKER, Granada Theatre, Reno, Nev.

A. S. GRIST, Bailey Theatre, Wilmington, N. C.

GEORGE N. HUNT, JR., Loew's Theatre, Louisville.

LES N. NEWARK, Lincoln Theatre, Cheyenne, Wyo.

Freon Lack Dooms Air-Conditioning

(Continued from page 1)

eased within the next nine months, and it is unlikely that any additional supplies of the gas will be available for any civilian use until after the shipbuilding program has been completed.

Under the conservation order, the use of freon is permitted only to certain Government agencies for military or maritime purposes and for hospitals and other essential activities.

With supplies of the gas withheld from theatres last summer, many operators were forced to close their cooling plants when leaks depleted their supply. A few operators kept small replacement supplies on hand, it is said, but most of them depended upon service organizations to keep their systems filled and operating. With no supplies available for the coming summer, it is expected that a large number of theatres will have to take down their "air-conditioned" signs. Officials said it will be absolutely impossible to release any gas whatever this season.

Seeks Boyer, Others, For Rank Picture

(Continued from page 1)

to be made in London under the sponsorship of the French Committee of Liberation, dealing with the French underground. Dr. Galperson will leave for Hollywood tomorrow with Barrington C. Gain, one of Rank's financial advisers and director of General Film Distributors, Ltd., also here from London.

The French underground story is by Joseph Kissel and is called "Army of Shadows." Among performers being sought are Charles Boyer, Jean Gabin, Pierre Aumont, Simone Simon, as well as Julien Duvivier, director.

It is Rank's intention to secure French talent as part of a plan to help him establish a market in France after liberation.



OVERHEARD ON THE SET OF M-G-M's "SONG OF RUSSIA"

ROBERT TAYLOR:

"Nice going Susan! They used to call you 'The Random Harvest Gal,' but from now on you're 'The Song of Russia Sweetheart'!"

SUSAN PETERS:

"You look mighty snappy yourself, Mr. T., as a Yank in Moscow."

ROBERT TAYLOR:

"Our international kiss gets its World Premiere at the Capitol, N. Y., February 3rd, following 6 weeks of 'A Guy Named Joe'. . . a good guy to follow!"

SUSAN PETERS:

"Wait till they get a screenful of *our* love affair, Bob, and the gorgeous music and the thrilling action."

BOB AND SUSAN:

"Here's a good spot to say thanks to our cast: John Hodiak, Robert Benchley, Felix Bressart and all the others. And to Screenplay Writers Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins and a special salute to Director Gregory Ratoff and Producer Joseph Pasternak. And of course a nod to the world's greatest studio—need we mention the name!"

Our Two Big Jobs In January: Fourth War Loan And March of Dimes!

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Dec. 25	COWBOY IN THE CLOUDS Charles Starrett Walter "Dub" Taylor	(Second Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)		(Second Block) RIDING HIGH (Technicolor) Dorothy Lamour Dick Powell Victor Moore M—89 mins. (4307)			(First Block) A LADY TAKES A CHANCE Jean Arthur John Wayne C—(405)	THE GANG'S ALL HERE Carmen Miranda Alice Faye James Ellison 103 mins. (416) (Technicolor)	JACK LONDON D Michael O'Shea Susan Hayward 93 mins.	MOONLIGHT IN VERMONT Gloria Jean Fay Helm Sidney Miller Ray Malone D—62 mins. (8025)	
Jan. 1	WHAT A WOMAN Rosalind Russell Brian Aherne Willard Parker D—93 mins.	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	WOMEN IN BONDAGE Gail Patrick D—71 mins. (303)	NO TIME FOR LOVE Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray Ilka Chase C—83 mins. (4309)	THE TEXAS RANGERS IN GUNSMOKE MESA James Newill (453) CAREER GIRL Frances Langford M—66 mins. (403)	WHISPERING FOOTSTEPS John Hubbard D—56 mins. OH, MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Frank Albertson C—69c mins.	THE FALLEN SPARROW Maureen O'Hara John Garfield D—(401)	THE LODGER Merle Oberon George Sanders Laird Cregar D—84 mins. (417)	THE WOMAN OF THE TOWN Albert Dekker Claire Trevor D—88 mins.	GUNG HO Randolph Scott Alan Curtis David Bruce Noah Beery, Jr. D—88 mins. (8064)	
Jan. 8		LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)	WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN Jackie Cooper D—72 mins. (302)	HENRY ALDRICH HAUNTS A HOUSE Jimmy Lydon Charles Smith John Litel C—73 mins. (4306)	NABONGA Buster Crabbe Fifi D'Orsay Barton MacLane D—(408)	CALIFORNIA JOE Don "Red" Barry Helen Talbot Wally Vernon O PRIDE OF THE PLAINS Bob Livingston Smiley Burnette O HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Roy Rogers O—74 mins. (341)	ADVENTURES OF A ROOKIE Wally Brown Allen Carney C—(402) THE SEVENTH VICTIM Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(403)		THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS Anna Sten Kent Smith D—79 mins.	SING A JINGLE Allan Jones June Vincent Samuel S. Hinds M—62 mins. (8034) ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES (in Technicolor) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—87 mins. (8003)	DESTINATION TOKYO Cary Grant John Garfield D—135 mins. (309)
Jan. 15	THE RACKET MAN Tom Neal Jeanne Bates Hugh Beaumont D—64 mins.	A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)	SULTAN'S DAUGHTER Ann Corio C—64 mins. (888) WESTWARD BOUND Hoot Gibson Ken Maynard O—(362)	MINESWEEPER Richard Arlen Jean Parker D—67 mins. (4308)		ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RHYTHM Gene Autry (Re-issue) O (3301)	SO THIS IS WASHINGTON Lum & Abner C—(404)	UNCENSORED (Made in England) Phyllis Calvert Griffiths Jones D—83 mins. (418)		SPIDER WOMAN Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce Gale Sondergaard D—62 mins. (8021)	
Jan. 22	SWING OUT THE BLUES Bob Haymes Lynn Merrick M—70 mins.	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417)	WHAT A MAN Johnnie Downs C—66 mins. (228) RAIDERS OF THE BORDER Johnny Mack Brown O—(352)	(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)		WOMEN IN WAR Elsie Janis D	(Second Block) THE IRON MAJOR Pat O'Brien D—83 mins. (406)	LIFEBOAT Talullah Bankhead William Bendix D—96 mins. (419)	KNICKER-BOCKER HOLIDAY Nelson Eddy Charles Coburn D	PHANTOM LADY Franchot Tone Ella Raines Alan Curtis D	
Jan. 29	BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKE Joan Davis John Hubbard C	RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—(418) BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—115 mins. (419)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—(409)		GANGWAY FOR TOMORROW Margo Robert Ryan D—(407)			SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE Marsha Hunt Alexander Knox D	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—(420)	VODOO MAN Bela Lugosi D				GOVERNMENT GIRL Olivia De Havilland Sonny Tufts D—(408)	JANE EYRE Joan Fontaine Orson Welles D	THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D	THIS IS THE ARMY (Regular release) George Murphy Joan Leslie M—115 mins. (224)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D	THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)	FRONTIER OUTLAW Buster Crabbe O—(462)	CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins.	GILDERSLEEVE ON BROADWAY Harold Peary Billie Burke C—65 mins. (409)			WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315)	HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (Made in England) D—(413)		THE FALCON AND THE CO-EDS Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(410)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D	IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M	
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)	TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)			NORTH STAR Anne Baxter Walter Huston Dana Andrews D—105 mins. (451)				FRISCO KID (Re-issue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 4		MADAM CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)									

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 15 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1944 TEN CENTS

Studio Unions To Negotiate Here March 6

Wage Increases Under Basic Agreement Up

Heads of major companies and officials of international unions which are signatories of the studio basic agreement will meet here March 6 to conduct the annual negotiations on wages, hours and working conditions provided for by the basic agreement, it was learned yesterday.

The date was set after conferences between Pat Casey, producers' labor representative, and Richard Walsh,

(*Continued on page 8*)

Rank Plans Sales Unit for America

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 20.—The intention of J. Arthur Rank to form a new organization for marketing his British film productions not only in America but throughout liberated Europe after the war was clearly indicated here tonight in a MOTION PICTURE DAILY interview with Rank and another with E. T. Carr, who recently resigned as the local managing director for United Artists.

Carr, it was revealed, would have the post of salesmanager, and the choice of men for other important appointments is under consideration.

Neither Rank nor Carr, however, would make any official statements on the subject at this time.

Academy to Probe Fake Ballot's Origin

Hollywood, Jan. 20. — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences issued a statement here today saying that it had started an investigation to determine the origin of fake ballots distributed in Chicago, Pittsburgh, New York, Seattle and Los Angeles inviting the public to vote on its preferences for Academy awards, which are conferred for outstanding work in the screen world.

This is the first time an effort of this kind has been made to influence public opinion.

Abandon Unionizing Of Thousands in 600 N. Y. Theatres

Unionization of house staffs of the 600-odd film houses in the New York area which loomed as a strong possibility several months ago with three unions attempting to organize ushers, doormen, cashiers, matrons, and even managers and assistants, has reached a dormant state.

Of the three unions, only IATSE Local B-171 has plans to attempt to organize ushers, doormen and cashiers but not at the present time. A spokesman for the union indicates

(*Continued on page 8*)

Fromkess Calls PRC Convention Feb. 11

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 20.—Leon Fromkess, vice-president in charge of production for Producers Releasing Corp., announced today that PRC will hold a national sales convention Feb. 11-14, at the St. Moritz Hotel, New York, with franchise holders, branch managers and sales representatives from the United States and Canadian exchanges attending. Leo J. McCarthy, general sales manager, will preside.

Fromkess will report on expanded production activities and also outline the 1944-45 program.

214 Films Released From Aug. to April

By April, 11 companies will have released a total of 214 features in the eight months of 1943-44, only half of the 438 announced for the season, according to a survey which will be published by *Motion Picture Herald* today. Completed for release or in work are about 150 films, 75 per cent of which are escapist fare and can be released at any time, regardless of world events.

Current production schedules include a majority of musicals, comedies, and the like, with a minimum of war-background scripts.

Hemisphere Will Compete with U.S. Film Companies

Plans for the establishment of Hemisphere Films, Inc., as a privately-financed organization operating within the Museum of Modern Art-Rockefeller Foundation set-up to augment film activities of the Government's Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs films section in Central and South America, are now taking definite shape, it was learned here yes-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Independents Call 'United Front' Meet

Will Examine Consent Decree in Chicago

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Representatives of independent exhibitors will meet with the executive committee and the Caravan committee of Allied States in Chicago on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 to develop a "united front" to deal with consent decree provisions in which independents have a special and "vital" interest and to inspect the distributors' final draft which, it is presumed, will have been forwarded to Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark within the next few days.

(Attorneys of the five decree signers have been meeting in New York this week to determine what changes they will make in the document following a meeting with Clark in Washington last Monday. Clark had told them that the principles dealing with cancellations, acquisitions of theatres

(*Continued on page 8*)

First Day of 'Dimes' Drive Beats 1943

First reports from theatres in New York and elsewhere indicate that the first day's March of Dimes collections ran far ahead of 1943. Both Loew's and RKO Theatres collected more in the first few hours than during the entire first day of the drive one year ago.

Today, exhibitors, theatre managers and members of the trade press from

(*Continued on page 8*)

3,000 Managers Enroll in 'Honored 100' in 1st 3 Days

In the first three days of the 4th War Loan Drive more than 3,000 theatre managers from all over the country have sent in entry blanks for their participation in the "Honored Hundred" contest, according to Robert W. Selig, assistant 4th loan campaign director of the industry's committee.

New York, with 500 entries, leads all states to date in the competition to choose the hundred managers with the best bond-sale record in ratio to the number of seats. Pennsylvania, California and Michigan are tied for second place.

Charles P. Skouras, national chairman, has arranged with Treasury officials to extend the period of the contest. It now runs throughout January and February. Judging will start immediately after March 15 to select state winners.

Selig pointed out yesterday that theatre men can compete without entering

(*Continued on page 8*)

Loew's Lists 1943 Net of $13,422,852

Profits of $13,422,852 for the year ended Aug. 31, 1943, are reported by Loew's, Inc. This is equivalent to $8.01 a share on common stock and compares with the preceding year's net of $12,132,606, or $7.02 per share.

Taxes during the year amounted to $21,239,869, compared to last year's $6,932,512. Total working and current assets were $101,938,064, against last year's $79,124,812. These assets include cash on hand of $26,678,828. against last year's $20,056,730; Government securities valued at $14,515,506, against $11,692,876; war savings bonds of $115,904.

Fixed assets amounted to $70,559,679 after provision for a depreciation reserve of $29,613,605, and including land worth $31,445,389, buildings and

(*Continued on page 8*)

Citations Like QP's Fake Ballots' Origin

"Oklahoma comes through with a neat 4th War Loan idea in the form of a citation to exhibitors who co-operate properly with the War Finance Committee," the WAC bond committee reports here.

"The citation is somewhat similar to the ones used by Quigley Publications in their Showmanship awards and commends the earner for outstanding achievement in the loan drive."

Personal Mention

ADOLPH ZUKOR, chairman of the board of Paramount, and MRS. ZUKOR will leave for the Coast today for a four to five weeks stay, stopping off at Tucson, Ariz.

•

SIDNEY GEORGE ALEXANDER of the Columbia advertising department has been sworn in as an Ensign in the United States Maritime Service and assumes his duties on Monday.

•

JOSEPH FELDMAN of the Warner theatre circuit's personnel department in Philadelphia is in University Hospital there undergoing treatment for a kidney ailment.

•

HARRY SHAW, Loew's New Haven zone manager, and LOU BROWN, publicity director for Loew's theatres in New England, were recent Hartford visitors.

•

JACK FLYNN, M-G-M Western sales manager, will leave Chicago for the Coast Feb. 5.

•

E. M. SAUNDERS, M-G-M assistant general sales manager, plans to leave for the Coast some time next week for a vacation.

•

JOSEPH PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, and MRS. PASTERNAK will return to the Coast next week.

•

ANGELLA CORRADO, assistant manager of Loew's Poli, Hartford, is in New York on a brief vacation.

•

C. STANLEY THOMPSON of Loew's legal department was in Buffalo yesterday.

Feb. 17 Release Date For Tarawa Pictures

Feb. 17 has been set by the War Activities Committee as the national release date for the official U. S. Marine Corps color films of the actual battle of Tarawa. Four hundred prints of the 20-minute picture, enlarged to 35-millimeter from 16-millimeter, will be distributed under the direction of WAC's Herman Gluckman. Rentals will defray the cost of distribution. Release title of the film will be "With the Marines on Tarawa."

Moss Will Be Guest At Bookers' Dinner

New York License Commissioner Paul Moss will be one of the guests of honor at the installation dinner of the Motion Picture Bookers Club at the Cafe Loyale here Monday. Home office and exchange sales heads are among those who will attend.

George Trilling of the Fabian circuit will be installed as president to succeed Bernard Brooks, and Irving Ludwig will take over the post of vice-president to which he was recently elected.

Specific-Run Award Reversed on Appeal

The arbitration appeal board here has reversed an award by Bert Flanders, arbitrator at the New Orleans tribunal, dismissing the specific-run complaint of Anthony Demharter, operator of the Peacock Theatre, New Orleans, against Paramount, RKO, 20th-Fox and Warners. Flanders had dismissed the complaint on the technicality of Demharter's inability to produce an old NRA decision granting him the right to play 60 days after New Orleans first runs. The award was appealed by the plaintiff, who subsequently produced what was said to be the NRA award.

The appeal board in its decision stipulated that Paramount, RKO, 20th-Fox and Warners shall be prohibited from hereafter licensing their product for exhibition in the Rivoli and Dreamland theatres on the runs requested by the complainant for his Peacock Theatre, or in the Peacock on such run, otherwise than by a separate contract or agreement which shall not be part of any contract or agreement for the licensing of features for exhibition in any other theatre or conditioned upon the licensing of product in any other theatre. It further stated that this award, as specifically provided in Section X, shall not affect the license to exhibit any feature now under license to the Rivoli and Dreamland. Costs were assessed one-fifth each against the complainant and the four defendants.

Arbitration Appeals Board Extension Seen

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard of New York is expected shortly to order another extension of the terms of the members of the film consent decree's Arbitration Board of Appeals to carry them through to the adoption of the revised decree.

Robert L. Wright, Assistant Attorney-General in charge of the film unit, said here today that he expected the court to take cognizance of the situation before the present extended term of the board's members runs out on Jan. 31.

Under the provisions of the consent decree, terms of appeal board members were set for three years ending next Jan. 31. Robert McC. Marsh, who was appointed to serve the unexpired portion of the three-year term of the late Van Vechten Veeder, was reappointed by Judge Goddard last Nov. 19 to serve to Jan. 31, 1944, when the terms of his two associates, George W. Alger and Albert W. Putnam, also will expire.

Two 'Our Time' Premieres

Warners' "In Our Time" will get two pre-release premieres in upstate New York next month. Special campaigns are now being worked out by Mort Blumenstock, Eastern advertising-publicity manager for previews at Shea's Buffalo, Feb. 4, and at the Warner, Erie, Feb. 5.

Showmen Will Aid War Torn Peoples

Representatives of screen, stage and radio met at a luncheon yesterday at the Hotel Astor and pledged support of their industries to the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, which will hold a fund-raising rally at Madison Square Garden on March 13. Alan Corelli of the Theatre Authority presided yesterday.

Dean Alfange, vice-chairman of the committee, sketched the background of the group's creation last July, and disclosed that a resolution is on the floor of Congress for a presidential committee to save Europe's remaining war-torn peoples. The committee, he said, is seeking to raise $100,000 to carry on its work. Corelli said that Al Rosen, manager of Loew's State, will head a showmen's group to secure talent for the Garden meeting.

Among those present were: Nick John Matsoukas, Bob Shapiro, Harry Mayer, Zeb Epstein, Bill White, Ben Boyer, Charles Washburn, Charles McDonald, Max Wolf, Sol Pernick, Vincent Jacobi, Dave Driscoll, Tom Kelleher, Charles Ryweck and others.

Circuit Formed in Mexico, Plan Another

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 20.—A 20-theatre circuit, including three first-runs, has been formed here by the Operadora de Teatros, S. A., backed by William O. Jenkins, Theodore Gildred, the National Bank of Mexico and the Banco Capitalizadora. The circuit, which will start operation here about Feb. 1, has contracted with Clasa Films and Films Mundiales, leading producers, for preferred exhibition of their product.

Another local circuit is in process of formation by Emilio Azcarraga, exhibitor and radio station operator. He will be associated with Jenkins and Gildred and the Financiera Comercial Mexicana in the deal. Jenkins is from the U. S.

Australian Branch of 20th in Sales Meet

Twentieth Century-Fox's Australian branch has completed a four-day sales conference, according to a cable received this week by Murray Silverstone, vice-president in charge of foreign distribution here. The meetings included discussion of the preceding year's sales activities and sales and advertising policies for 1944 product.

Managing director Raymond Rowe arranged screenings of six films. The conference closed with a banquet for Hoyt's Theatre executives.

12-Reel Fight Film Will Open Tomorrow

"Kings of the Ring," 12-reel fight film, compiled by Jack Rieger and G. J. Jaffee, and to be released by Martin Lewis and Irwin Lesser, independents, will have its premiere at the World Theatre, 49th St. and Seventh Ave., tomorrow.

The feature is a compilation of some 30 championship ring contests.

Coming Events

Through Feb. 15—Fourth War Loan drive.

Jan. 21—New York Film Critics' Circle 'best film' awards over NBC from New York and Hollywood.

Jan. 21—March of Dimes "Appreciation Breakfast," Hotel Astor, New York.

Jan. 23—IATSE executive board meeting, Netherlands Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati.

Jan. 24-30—March of Dimes campaign.

Jan. 25—Eastern Pennsylvania Allied Theatre Owners dinner, Philadelphia.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
in Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Michele MORGAN
Jack HALEY
Frank SINATRA
"Higher and Higher"

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Red SKELTON
Eleanor POWELL
In M-G-M's
'I DOOD IT'
In Person
Earl Carroll's Vanities

Merle OBERON • Geo. SANDERS
Laird CREGAR
"The LODGER"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus A Big Stage Show
ROXY
7th Ave. & 60th St.

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Special Priority Is Granted on Tubes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Exhibitors requiring electronic equipment, including tubes, hereafter will be able to use an AA-2 priority rating to secure repair and maintenance of equipment, it was announced today by John Eberson, consultant to the amusement section of the Office of Civilian Requirements. Eberson explained that for the present exhibitors will have to apply to the Office of Civilian Requirements for authority to use the rating, and may do so by wire where the situation nessitates quick action, but that in 10 days or so the War Production Board control regulation will be so amended as to give all exhibitors the use of the rate without formal application.

'Desert Song' Gets 90 Opening Dates

Warner's "The Desert Song" will have preview openings at 90 houses next week, following its out-of-town premiere at the Palace, Bethlehem, Pa. Eastern bookings, starting Jan. 26, include Worcester, Springfield, New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New London, Norwich, Torrington, Newburyport, Albany, Lancaster, York, Stamford, Elmira, Utica, Jamestown, Altoona and Atlantic City.

Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Sandusky, Portsmouth, Parkersburg, Mansfield, Indianapolis and St. Louis will be the first Central and Midwest spots and the West Coast premiere will take place in three Los Angeles houses around Feb. 1.

Censor Cuts in 13 of 145 Films Last Month

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 20.—Ohio censors ordered eliminations in 13 films, 37 reels out of 145 films, representing 451 reels, during December. This compares with eliminations in 14 films, 16 reels in November, when 129 films or 398 reels, were reviewed. Comparatively, in December, 1942, 190 films or 511 reels, were reviewed, with eliminations made in 15 films or 22 reels.

For 1943, a total of 1,708 films, consisting of 5,117 reels, were reviewed from which eliminations were ordered in 163 films or 254 reels.

Morris Joins U.A. Publicity Staff

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—Claude Morris has joined United Artists as publicity representative in the Midwest under home office supervision of Paul N. Lazarus, Jr. and, in Chicago, under Rud Lohrenz, district manager.

Before going to United Artists Morris was with Fox Mid-West Theatres in Kansas City as advertising-publicity manager and prior to that he spent 13 years as exploitation representative for M-G-M in the Midwest.

Local B-51 Honored

IATSE Local B-51, Film Exchange Employees Union here has been awarded a certificate of merit by the Greater New York Fund in recognition of the membership's contributions to the Labor War Chest in which the Fund shared.

Review

"Phantom Lady"

(Universal)

EXHIBITORS should not be misled by the title "Phantom Lady," into pegging it as just another horror film. On the contrary, as produced by Joan Harrison and directed by Robert Siodmak, it is a top-notch psychological murder mystery melodrama packed with 87 minutes of suspense and action in the best Alfred Hitchcock manner. It is guaranteed to leave limp the most hearty devotees of this type of film. Word of mouth advertising will go a long way in selling it to the customers.

While too much credit cannot be given to Miss Harrison and Siodmak for their handling of the Bernard C. Schoenfeld screen play derived from a novel by William Irish, much of its effect is due to Ella Raines and Franchot Tone for their handling of the top roles. As the personable sculptor who is supposedly afflicted with paranoia, which leads him to a series of vicious murders, Tone turns in a grand performance. Miss Raines as secretary of Alan Curtis, a successful civil engineer who is convicted of one of the crimes committed by his friend, Tone, is neat in the role of detective. The slight romance between Miss Raines and Curtis provides this film with appeal for all types of audiences.

The phantom lady of the title is Curtis' only alibi when his wife is murdered, but the very people who identify him deny having seen him with the lady in question, whom he met at a bar. When Curtis is convicted, Miss Raines takes over the search for the elusive female. She succeeds in wearing down two witnesses, a bartender and a "hep-cat" drummer, but accidental death strikes in the first instance and murder in the second before she can obtain conclusive evidence that they have been bribed to deny the existence of Curtis' "phantom" alibi. Tone enters the picture at this point and is revealed as the murderer. He befriends Miss Raines and joins in the search for the elusive female, naturally to help his old friend Curtis, but more important to oversee Miss Raines' efforts to locate the elusive alibi through an unusual hat. Miss Raines almost joins Tone's list of victims before she discovers the truth. Tone plunges through a window when cornered by the police.

Besides the romantic relief, there are also two musical sequences in the film which are part of the action. One, a surreptitious "jive" session, is unique. Other performers, including Curtis, Fay Helm, Aurora Miranda, sister of Carmen; Andrew Tombes, and Regis Toomey, are satisfactory. Elwood Bredell's photography catches the spirit of the action.

Running time, 87 mins. Release date, Jan. 29. "G."*

MILT LIVINGSTON

*"G" denotes general classification.

OWI Seeks Release Of War Dep't Films

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Negotiations will be undertaken by the 16mm division of the Office of War Information Motion Picture Bureau to secure funds from other Government agencies for the making of prints of the latter's war pictures for non-theatrical distribution, as a result of meetings here with representatives of civic organizations and Federal officials which ended today.

As a result of studies made during the two-day conference, conducted by C. R. Reagan, chief of the 16mm division, OWI also is attempting to secure the release by the War and Navy Departments of restricted films now distributed to defense plants only.

40 U. S. Films Hit by Argentine Censors

With Argentina's policy of film censorship getting sterner against anti-Nazi themes, approximately 40 American films have been banned or such drastic deletions have been ordered as to make them unsuitable for exhibition.

Paramount's "So Proudly We Hail" and "Five Graves to Cairo" were ordered cut allegedly in the interests of "neutrality." The company has refused to make the deletions. Other U. S. distributors are said to have joined Paramount in presenting a unified stand against the censorship attack.

Deal Closed for War Plant Equipment

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced here recently that Defense Plant Corp. has executed a contract with the Motion Picture Engineering Corp., Chicago, to provide film equipment at a plant in Cook County, Ill., at a cost of approximately $25,000.

The Chicago company will operate the facilities, title to which will remain in the Defense Plant Corp., a Government war agency. This being a war contract, details of its character and purpose were withheld.

M. P. Daily to M-G-M Employes in Service

Mike Simons, editor of *The Distributor*, Loew M-G-M house publication, has requested all company executives and employes to forward their copies of MOTION PICTURE DAILY and *Motion Picture Herald*, and some other trade papers to him when they have been read, for immediate mailing to M-G-M men and women in military service.

W.B. Annual Meeting

WILMINGTON, Del., Jan. 20.—Date for the annual Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., stockholders meeting has been set for Feb. 15, it was learned here today.

Coast Flashes

EDDIE CANTOR, Ginny Simms, Cass Daley, Lum & Abner, Dick Powell, Ida Lupino, Edward G. Robinson, Jack Haley, Bob Burns and Monty Woolley have been approved by the Hollywood Victory Committee for appearances on Mutual's annual "March of Dimes" broadcast on Sunday from 6 to 7 p.m., Pacific War time.

•

Vanguard Films has signed Ben Hecht to a term writing contract, president Daniel T. O'Shea announced today. His first script will be an adaptation of the Francis Beeding mystery novel "The House of Dr. Edwards," scheduled for production by David O. Selznick with Joseph Cotten in the male lead and Alfred Hitchcock directing, upon his return from England.

•

Arthur S. Lyons, David L. Loew and Boris Morros have been named directors of the "Of Thee I Sing" Corp., formed to produce the musical comedy of that name starting May 1. Release in the United States will be under Producing Artists.

•

More than 4,000 ballots will be mailed tomorrow by the Academy of M. P. Arts and Science to qualified nominators of candidates for the annual awards. The ballots are to be returned by Feb. 2.

•

Universal Studio purchases of 4th War Loan bonds totaled $150,000 during the first three days of the drive, Henry Ginsberg, War Finance Committee chairman, has announced.

•

On its shorts program for 1944 M-G-M will schedule 37 one-reelers with commentaries by Pete Smith, Carey Wilson, John Nesbitt and James A. FitzPatrick.

•

Louis B. Mayer, vice-president of M-G-M, is confined to his home by the flu.

•

Henry B. Glover has been appointed to succeed Harold Cohen as manager of Monogram's New Orleans branch.

•

Arnold Pressburger, film producer, is backing the stage play "The Blivens," now in rehearsal.

•

Bryan Foy, Warners' associate producer, left here today for talent conferences in the East.

M-G-M Shorts at Stage Door Canteen

A preview audience of servicemen and the press saw three M-G-M war shorts last night at a special screening in the Stage Door Canteen here. The preview was arranged with canteen officials to show servicemen what the industry is doing in films—various phases of the war. Shorts screened were: "Shoe Shine Boy," "The Kid In Upper Four" and John Nesbitt's "This Is Tomorrow."

A reception for the press was held at Sardi's prior to the program.

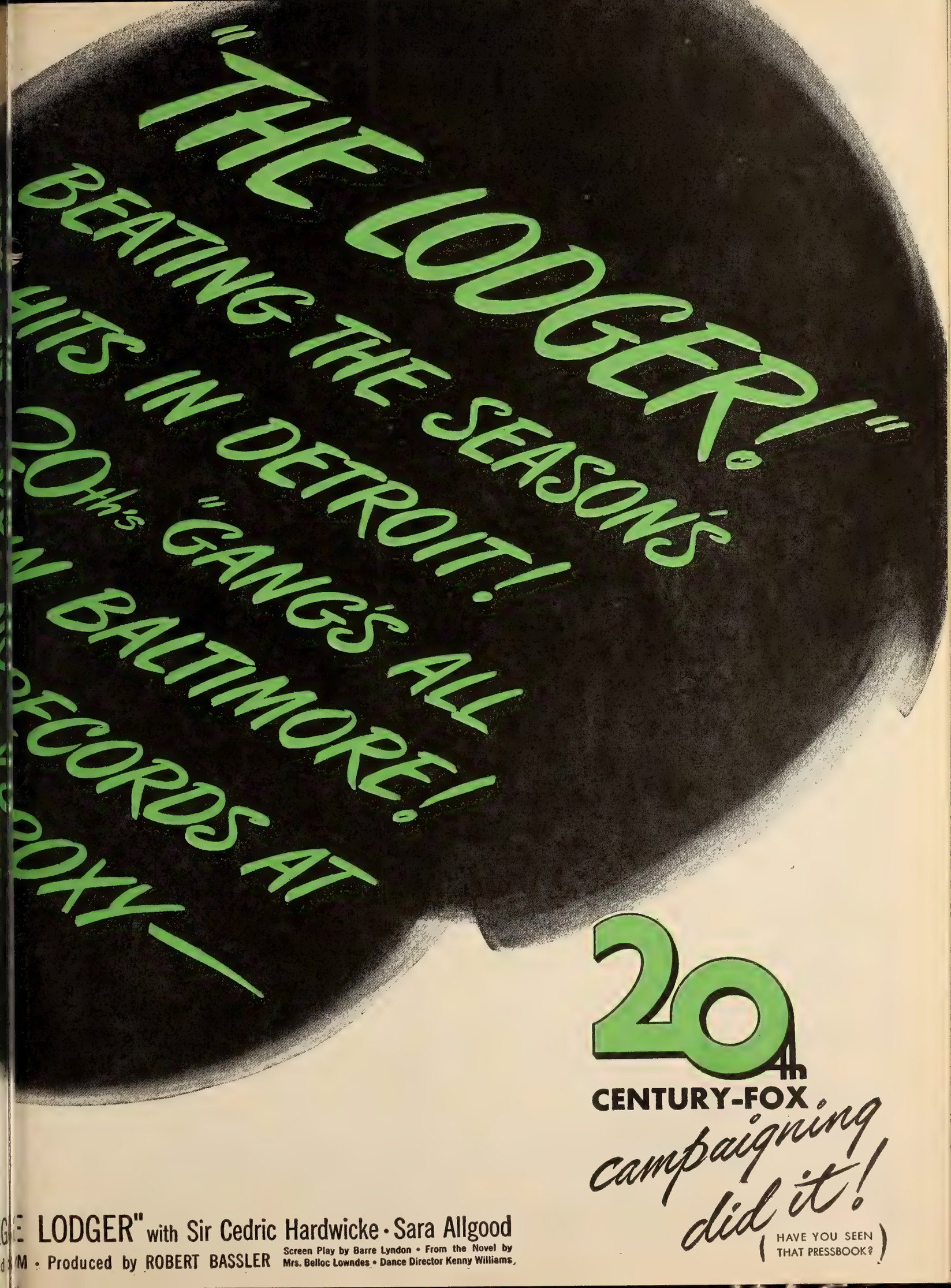
OVERSHADOWING EVERYTHING!



"4th WAR LOAN DRIVE... A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT."

☆ MERLE OBERON ☆ GEORGE SANDERS ☆ LAIRD CREGA

Aubrey Mather · Queenie Leonard · Doris Lloyd · David Clyde · Helena Pickard · Directed



20th CENTURY-FOX

campaigning did it!

(HAVE YOU SEEN THAT PRESSBOOK?)

E LODGER" with Sir Cedric Hardwicke • Sara Allgood

M • Produced by ROBERT BASSLER

Screen Play by Barre Lyndon • From the Novel by Mrs. Belloc Lowndes • Dance Director Kenny Williams

'Heat's On' Is L. A. Leader With $41,000

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 20.—With holdovers dominating, "The Heat's On," coupled with "Is Everybody Happy?," was rolling up a prospective $41,000 in Fox West Coast's Egyptian-Los Angeles-Ritz first-runs, which average $34,817. "Jack London," singling in the circuit's Chinese-Loew's State-Egyptian set-up, slightly topped the group's $49,587 average. "Song of Bernadette" gained in its fourth week at the United Artists and Carthay Center, which appears to insure its staying there two or three more. The weather was good.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 19:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,200. (Average: $11,880)
"Jack London" (UA)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,692)
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
"Is Everybody Happy?" (Col.)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,590)
"Seventh Victim" (RKO)
"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $5,865)
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"The Falcon and the Co-Eds" (RKO)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $19,544)
"Jack London" (UA)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $23,577)
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
"Is Everybody Happy?" (Col.)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (4c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $14,-354)
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"The Falcon and the Co-Eds" (RKO)
PANTAGES—(2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,810)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT (Hollywood)—(1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,-500. (Average, $11,115)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Tornado" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT (Downtown)—(3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $21,307)
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
"Is Everybody Happy?" (Col.)
RITZ—(1,376) (4c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $9,873)
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $21,300. (Average: $27,967)
"Jack London" (UA)
UPTOWN—(1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,318)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. (Hollywood)—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $26,609. (Average: $16,362)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. (Downtown)—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $33,405. (Average: $18,480)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER BROS. (Wiltern)—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $24,-152. (Average: $17,162)
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
FOX-WILSHIRE — (2,300) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $8,200. (Average: $11,750)

Services for Barrett Held in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 20. — Funeral services were held here this week for Carlyle G. Barrett, of Hamden, district manager for the Warner circuit. The local office closed for the day.

Barrett, who was 49, was with Warners for 20 years, first as manager of the local Capitol and the New Britain Strand, and later as district manager in the Boston area.

Review

"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, Jan. 20

FIRST in a new series of Charlie Chan pictures, produced by Philip N. Krasne and James S. Burkett for Monogram, "Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" is a well-tailored job cut to the pattern of its predecessors. Once more Sidney Toler is Chan, the Chinese detective as famous for his aphorisms as for his sleuthing ability.

There is more dialogue in George Callahan's screenplay than is customary in a whodunit, but it was the dialogue, especially those lines delivered by Mantan Moreland, which provoked plenty of laughter from a week-night audience at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. The story concerns the disappearance of some plans for a super-destructive torpedo. Their inventor is found dead, and this murder, as well as a subsequent one, is ingeniously planned and executed by a killer who utilizes all the resources of modern science. But Chan, whose knowledge of the magnetic properties of electricity is second only to his deductive powers, solves the crimes in short order and brings the guilty party to book.

Marianne Quon and Benson Fong as the detective's children add to the fun by their bumbling efforts to aid their honorable parent. The supporting cast is adequate, and Phil Rosen's direction keeps the story moving at an even pace.

Running time, 65 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 14, 1944.

THALIA BELL.

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Fantasy' Gets Big $16,000 in Buffalo

BUFFALO, Jan. 20.—"Flesh and Fantasy" looked like the leader here in a strong bid for $16,000 at the Lafayette. "Government Girl" and "The Seventh Victim" appeared headed for $14,000 at the 20th Century. "Destination Tokyo" will keep up the Hippodrome's average in a rousing third week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 22:

"Riding High" (Para.)
"Minesweeper" (Para.)
BUFFALO—(3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $14,200. (Average: $16,500)
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $14,400. (Average: $16,400)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,500)
"Government Girl" (RKO)
"The Seventh Victim" (RKO)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $10,600)
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
"Cowboy in Manhattan" (Univ.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $10,500)

Record $15,100 for 'Diary' in Omaha

OMAHA, Jan. 20.—First-run houses here probably hit an all-time high this week. The Orpheum, with "Guadalcanal Diary," set a record for a single picture with $15,100, and "Thousands Cheer," grossing $13,600 at the Paramount, was only a breath behind the all-time high of that house.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 19-20:

"North Star" (RKO)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
BRANDES—(1,200) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,900. (Average, $5,500)
"Guadalcanal Diary" (20th-Fox)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $15,100. (Average: $8,900)
"Riding High" (Para.)
"Minesweeper" (Para.)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 6 days, 2nd week for "Riding High," moveover. Gross: $8,700. (Average: $6,900)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $13,600. (Average: $9,800)

Providence Welcomes 'Love' with $14,000

PROVDENCE, Jan. 20.—Business continued good here this week. Outstanding was "No Time for Love" grossing $14,000 in its first week at the Strand and holding over.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 20:

"Around the World" (RKO)
"Ghost Ship" (RKO)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $12,900).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Mine Sweeper" (Para.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $15,500).
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $13,400. (Average: $12,000).
"Crime School" (WB)
"Girls on Probation" (WB)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, held over. Gross: $4,100. (Average: $3,900).
"Tiger Fangs" (PRC)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: D'Maranvilles, Dowling Girls, Maxine & Bobby, James Cavanaugh, Wanda Ward, Miles Lyons. Gross: $6,300. (Average: $6,500).
"Hoosier Holiday" (Rep.)
METROPOLITAN—(3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Earl Carroll's Vanities. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,000).

'Dull Moment,' Show, $14,500; Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 20.—"Never a Dull Moment," with Ina Ray Hutton and a stage show at the Circle, is leading grosses here this week and will do $14,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 18-20:

"Never a Dull Moment" (Univ.)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days. Stage show: Ina Ray Hutton. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $11,000)
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,200. (Average: $11,500)
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,000)
"Son of Dracula" (Univ.)
"The Mad Ghoul" (Univ.)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $5,000)

'Tokyo' Headed for $9,400 Over Par In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 20.—"Destination Tokyo" hit a big $31,500 in its opening week at the Fox, while Martha Raye on the stage helped "Gangway for Tomorrow" do $25,000 at the Golden Gate. "What a Woman" and "Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" headed for $15,800 in their second week at the Orpheum. The weather was good.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 18:

"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
WARFELD—(2,680) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $23,200. (Average: $20,300)
"North Star" (RKO)
"Spotlight Scandals" (Mono.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,740) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $18,900. (Average: $18,700)
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $26,000)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $31,500. (Average: $22,100)
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,800. (Average: $12,700)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,300)
"Buck Privates" (Univ.)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average, $10,000)
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
STATE—(2,306) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $11,000)

'Love' Hits Lovely $20,000 in Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Jan. 20.—Ted Fiorito and the Mills Brothers drew big crowds to the Palace over the week end, heading for $27,000. "No Time for Love" at the State topped film shows, hitting a high $20,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 19:

"Guadalcanal Diary" (20th-Fox)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $8,500)
"Government Girl" (RKO)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $17,500)
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
WARNERS LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $3,000)
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,500)
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c and 85c Sundays and holidays) 7 days. Stage: Ted Fiorito orchestra, Mills Bros. and vaudeville. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $22,-000)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $17,500)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,500)

Arthur Takes Over

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 20. — James H. Arthur, president and counsel of Fanchon and Marco Theatres, was installed as chief barker of the local Variety Club at a luncheon in the Hotel Coronado recently. He took over from Harry Crawford, also of Fanchon and Marco.

Honorary memberships were given to Mayor A. P. Kaufman and Police Chief James Mitchell.

WITH CERTAINTY

ON MANY FRONTS where vital pictures are made without rehearsal, the cameramen have utmost confidence in the unvarying high quality of Eastman films. This certainty is built on a half century of unexcelled performance. Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., *Distributors*
Fort Lee Chicago Hollywood

EASTMAN FILMS

Hemisphere Will Compete with U.S.

(*Continued from page* 1)

terday. As conceived, it will undoubtedly eventually offer competition to American film companies operating in the Latin Americas, engaged in similar production, according to informed quarters.

"Hemisphere Films is designed as a supplemental activity to increase the efficiency of the educational side of the CIAA film program," Wallace K. Harrison, formerly assistant coordinator of the CIAA, stated in an interview with MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday. He has been assigned to the Hemisphere project by Nelson Rockefeller.

Though primarily designed as a privately-owned enterprise to send films to South America in the post-war period, Hemisphere will start now if conditions are right and various factors can be assembled to make it work. Some delay is expected due to governmental and private corporation relations," Harrison said. Plans also call for an interchange of subjects with South American countries, he revealed.

CIAA to Continue Contracts

CIAA will continue existing contracts, newsreel features and relations with private companies, it is expected.

Hemisphere will not only offer additional outlets for American films but also for projection equipment and other industry products, bringing competition to American companies in those fields, it is expected.

Hemisphere Films, however, would do missionary work for the American film industry and other industries in the Latin markets.

Hemisphere was formed by the Museum of Modern Art two years ago when the latter contracted to edit and review pictures for the Government's CIAA. It is understood that financial backing possibly may come from the Rockefeller and Marshall Field foundations.

Abandon Unionizing Of N. Y. Theatres

(*Continued from page* 1)

that organization will be attempted when the time is more opportune. The present astronomical turnover in the three classes of theatre help has made it unfeasible to attempt organization at present, it was pointed out.

Theatre and Amusement Service Employees Local 54, BSIEU, AFL, which represents cleaners, porters and watchmen in theatres in the New York area, received authorization to also organize ushers, doormen, matrons and cashiers from its International Union, but its organizational attempts are understood to have been stymied by IATSE Local B-171, which claims jurisdiction over those groups. Spokesmen for Local 54 point out that they are awaiting fur- their action by Local B-171 in their drive to organize the field.

M. P. Theatre Managers and Employees Union, which put on an intensive drive to organize managers and their assistants last Summer, has apparently dropped out of the field, especially since losing in its initial effort covering employees of the Laff-movie Theatre in a State Labor Relations Board election. B-171, another contestant in this election, also lost.

3,000 Managers Enroll in 'Honored 100' in 1st 3 Days

(*Continued from page* 1)

blanks. He commended trade papers for their daily listings of the "Honored Bondsmen of the Day."

One of the entry blanks received yesterday came from Homer Garvin, manager of the Capitol Theatre, a 605-seat house in Juneau, Alaska, a town of 5,729 population. He is believed to be the first participant outside the 48 states.

Million-Dollar Seat Sold for Bond Show

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—A $1,000,000 "Golden Chair" which will enable 176 wounded soldiers and sailors from Walter Reed Hospital and the Naval Hospital to attend the station WRC-Variety Club 4th War Loan bond matinee of the "Ice-Capades of 1944" at Cline's Arena on Jan. 29, has been sold to Equitable Life Insurance, whose home office is located here, according to campaign chairman Carter Barron, Loew circuit executive.

Negotiations for the sale were conducted by Al Sherman of the local Variety Club. The ticket will be formally presented next week to Henry P. Blair, president of Equitable. Sidney Lust is chairman of the ticket committee.

Dempsey and Albert Join Stars in Drive

BOSTON, Jan. 20.—Lt. Com. Jack Dempsey of the Coast Guard and Ensign Eddie Albert of the Navy have joined Hollywood's Charles Bickford and Jo. Carroll Dennision in the industry's activities for the opening of the 4th War Loan Drive here. They will remain for three days to make appearances and attend rallies. Ensign Albert will go from here to Chicago for a bond broadcast and will spend three days helping sell war bonds there.

Harmon Speaks on Campaign in Miami

MIAMI, Jan. 20.—Some 300 civic leaders from 29 states gathered in the Miami Rotary Club at the Urmey Hotel today and heard Francis S. Harmon, War Activities Committee vice-chairman, discuss local theatre participation in the 4th War Loan Drive. He also stressed the need for supporting the current theatre collection for the Infantile Paralysis Fund and mentioned the industry's gift of 16mm films, which are flown overseas daily from Miami.

Harmon, who will be guest speaker at the YMCA annual meeting before returning to New York, was introduced by Sidney Meyer of the Wometco Theatres.

Michigan Houses All United for 1st Time

DETROIT, Jan. 20.— The 4th War Loan Drive has enlisted for the first time the joint cooperation of all chain, independent and cooperative theatres in Michigan. The state's set-up is also unique in that theatres participate as part of a broad promotional committee of the Michigan War Finance Committee, which lists Mrs. Alice Gorham, of United Detroit Theatres as state director for the industry.

Working under her guidance are Edward C. Beatty, head of Hollywood War Activities; Earl J. Hudson, of United Detroit Theatres; David Idzal, of Fox Theatres; Alex Schreiber, representing independents; James Sharkey, of co-operatives; C. L. Buermele, of General Theatre Services, and Ray Branch, of Allied Theatres of Michigan.

The state quota is $440,000,000, while Wayne County, comprising metropolitan Detroit, is being asked for $85,459,000.

First Day of 'Dimes' Drive Beats 1943

(*Continued from page* 1)

the Metropolitan area will be guests of the "Dimes" committee at an appreciation breakfast at the Hotel Astor at 9:45. Speakers will include E. L. Alperson, Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation, Harry Brandt and Ernest Emerling. The "Dimes" trailer will be shown.

On Monday, the New York theatres' committee will stage a demonstration in Times Square officially opening the industry's drive. Mayor LaGuardia will dedicate a 12-foot glass wishing well, symbol of the "Dimes" drive. Jerry Lester will preside over entertainment.

Ed Wynn's Mother Dies

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 20.—Mrs. Minnie Leopold, mother of actor Ed Wynn and also of Leon Wynn, manager of the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, died at her home here today, aged 78.

Janitors Get Increase

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—Theatre janitors here have been awarded an eight cents hourly increase by the Regional War Labor Board. The raise is retroactive to March 15, 1943.

Independents Call 'United Front' Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

and arbitration were totally unacceptable and that the Department of Justice would insist on changes of a few lesser points also.)

The Allied meeting in Chicago, scheduled for the Blackstone Hotel, will be attended by representatives of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, Independent Exhibitors of New England and Allied Independent Theatres of Iowa-Nebraska.

Also scheduled for consideration at the meeting is the recent battle over the admission tax, with the exhibitors seeking to strengthen weaknesses in their defense against adverse legislation. Abram F. Myers, Allied general counsel, will outline a plan for a nationwide conference on taxation.

Allied also will elect officers and executive committee members and two members of its Caravan committee.

Duplicate 20th Campaign

Out-of-town newspaper campaigns for 20th-Fox's new "Lifeboat" and "The Lodger" will be patterned after the New York campaigns, it was revealed here yesterday by the company's press office.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war bond campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

GEORGE LIMERICK, Cherokee Theatre, Enid, Okla.
HAROLD D. BARNES, Capitol Theatre, Clinton, Ia.
REYNOLD WALLACH, Strand Theatre, Cumberland, Md.
DAVID T. THOMAS, Center Theatre, Salt Lake City.
A. ALDMAN, Loew's 175th Street Theatre, New York.
BEN L. STROZIER, Stevenson Theatre, Rock Hill, S. C.
HARRY BOTWICK, State Theatre, Portland, Me.
BYRON MCELLIGOTT, Capitol Theatre, Aberdeen, S. D.
EDWARD L. REED, Strand Theatre, Providence.
M. F. MORRISON, Strand Theatre, Dover, N. H.
GEORGE A. MASON, Great Lakes Theatre, Buffalo.

Studio Unions Will Meet Here March 6

(*Continued from page* 1)

IATSE president, after consultation with representatives of other unions which are members of the agreement.

Virtually every union has indicated its intention of asking for wage increases for its members when the negotiations are opened. In addition, demands will be made that any increases granted be made retroactive to last October on the ground that the basic agreement negotiations originally were scheduled to have been opened at that time. Thousands of Hollywood workers are affected by the negotiations.

The annual basic agreement meetings normally are attended by presidents of the eight major companies and the presidents of the international unions which are parties to the basic agreement. Among the latter are: the IATSE, the International Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners, the IBEW, the Teamsters & Chauffeurs International, the Painters Union and others.

Casey, who has been in New York for the past two months, will leave for the Coast in the near future and will return early in March to attend the meeting. The session is expected to last several days and its agenda may be arranged to accommodate studio union representatives who may encounter difficulty in obtaining transportation from the West Coast at that time.

Loew's Lists 1943 Net of $13,422,852

(*Continued from page* 1)

equipment of $62,980,272 and leases of $5,747,624.

Total current liabilities amounted to $39,275,113. Total funded debt consisted of $35,059,475.

Operating revenue amounted to $157,236,944; operating and general expenses were $104,253,828. Dividends paid during the year on common stock amounted to $6,672,286.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 16 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1944 TEN CENTS

Decree Draft Readied for 'Final' Study

Company Officials Return To Clark Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The latest revision of the consent decree is scheduled to be brought to Washington tomorrow by company representatives who, it is understood, feel that some of the new provisions require explanation and discussion when they are presented to Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney General.

Following the decree conference held here last Monday, Clark stated that there would be no further meetings with the company officials and that their new proposals would be sent here by mail at the weekend.

It is believed now that the company officials wish to make their position clear to Clark before he turns the proposals over to exhibitor representa-

(*Continued on page* 8)

State Dep't Studies Argentina Film Ban

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—In its first official action since inception of the new State Department collaboration with the industry, the Department has taken under study the recent decree of Argentina which would ban or submit to arbitrary censorship films containing anything alleged to be anti-Nazi "propaganda." The industry has made representations to the Department that the decree is discriminatory and unjust, it is understood.

Chicagoans Protest 'Adults-Only' Ads

Chicago, Jan. 23.—Chicago women's clubs are preparing formal protests against newspaper advertisements of films designated "for adults only," as inserted by independent theatres here. They charge that the ads cause youngsters to respond more than their elders, contributing to juvenile delinquency.

Other groups which are cooperating in a city-wide crusade to stamp out delinquency will join the women's clubs with "pressure bombardments."

New Itinerary Set for Star 'Bondardier' Tour

Revised bookings of Hollywood stars for appearances as "Bondardiers" in key cities for the 4th War Loan drive, as staged by exhibitors, local War Activities Committee units and the Treasury's War Finance Committee, results in the following itinerary:

New York and Newark combined: Brian Donlevy, Laraine Day, Lloyd Nolan and Jeanette MacDonald, booked through Jan. 31; Philadelphia: Franchot Tone, Jan. 18 to 27 and Lucille Ball from Jan. 24 to Feb. 2; Chicago: John Garfield, Jan. 20-27 and Jinx Falkenburg, Jan. 17-27; Cleveland: Maria Montez, Jan. 17-27 and Lee Bowman, Jan. 18-31; Minneapolis: Dennis Morgan and Arline Judge, Jan. 17-31; Detroit: Walter Pidgeon, Jan. 19-28; St. Louis: Gene Tierney, Jan. 17-29; Anthony Quinn, Jan. 20-29, and Errol Flynn, Jan. 28-29; Indianapolis: Dana Andrews and Cecilia

(*Continued on page* 8)

Favor APRS Sharing Canada License Fees

TORONTO, Jan. 23. — The Musical Protective Association of Canada, representing theatres, hotels, and fall fairs, as well as the Canadian Association of Broadcasters and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. all told the Federal Copyright Appeal Board in session in Ottawa at the weekend that they had no objection to the American Performing Right Society's sharing in the permitted annual license fees for use of musical works along with the Canadian Performing Rights Society and Broadcast Music, Ltd., provided the 1944 payments did not mean an additional levy on theatres and other licensed interests.

The American Society asked a seat tax of one or two cents, according to the size of the theatre and one cent on each radio receiving set in the Dominion.

The Canadian Performing Rights Society objected, however, to the entry of the New York rival into the Canadian field and claimed the American Society failed to meet requirements of the Canadian Copyright Act in not filing a catalogue of controlled compositions in sufficient time. This was denied by lawyers for the American Society.

The original Canadian Society also wanted to collect a fee on juke boxes and from factories using canned music or sound films. The board reserved judgment on all points and on the application of the American Society.

500 Showmen Help Launch 'Dimes' Drive

The March of Dimes 1944 campaign was launched in the Metropolitan New York area by an "appreciation breakfast" given at the Hotel Astor, Friday, to some 500 exhibitors, managers and theatre executives and the press.

Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, paid high tribute to the work being done by those of the film industry.

"The messages you have received from President Roosevelt from time to

(*Continued on page* 8)

Lawrence Lipskin Is Col. Ad Manager

Lawrence H. Lipskin, who left Columbia's home office last August to join Donahue & Coe ad agency, will return to Columbia on Feb. 7 as advertising manager. He joined Columbia in 1937 after being on the editorial staffs of several metropolitan dailies.

David A. Lipton, recently inducted into the Army, was director of advertising, publicity and exploitation. Frank Rosenberg is exploitation manager; Hortense Schorr is publicity manager, and Lipskin will handle advertising. No plans have been made to change that set-up. Harry K. McWilliams has been named to assist Rosenberg. He has been with Columbia's exploitation department since 1942.

Canada Unity Meet Called for Feb. 1

TORONTO, Jan. 23.—A get-together conference of distributor executives and independent exhibitors to lay plans for industrial unity is scheduled here for Feb. 1.

Meanwhile the National Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada has presented to the Federal Government a brief asking, it is understood, for intervention in rental contract grievances under government control of business.

Invited to the conference are officers and directors of the Ontario branch of the Independent Exhibitors of Canada, general managers of the major film companies; Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Assn.; and Henry Falk, chairman of the National Council of Independents.

RKO-Radio to Handle Spitz-Goetz Product

Depinet Sets Deal at Meeting on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23. — A deal whereby RKO-Radio Pictures will release product to be made by International Pictures, Inc., recently formed by Leo Spitz and William Goetz, was closed here yesterday, it was announced.

This deal gives RKO a second line of product from a leading independent producer, the company's releasing deal with Samuel Goldwyn having recently been renewed for an extended period.

The announcement did not disclose how many pictures would be involved

(*Continued on page* 8)

Wright Assigned to Study Film Cartels

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Investigation of negotiations between J. Arthur Rank, British film leader, and American companies which might develop an international motion picture cartel, has been placed in the hands of Robert L. Wright, assistant to the Attorney-General in charge of the film unit, and has become part of the "general" motion picture work of that agency.

Preliminary studies of the situation

(*Continued on page* 8)

RKO Workers Get That Bonus at Last

RKO paid a Christmas bonus Friday to employes of the home office, circuit and exchanges who come within certain salary classifications.

Authorized by the RKO board on Dec. 6, payment, which was intended for Christmas, was held up pending approval by the War Labor Board and the Treasury Stabilization Unit. This approval has finally been received.

None of the other several film companies which also announced Christmas bonuses have reported approval of their payments.

Personal Mention

WILL H. HAYS left New York over the weekend for Hollywood for a stay of several weeks, during which he will attend the annual meeting of the Association of M. P. Producers.

•

CARL LESERMAN, United Artists general sales manager, returned over the weekend from Toronto, where he attended a farewell dinner for DAVID H. COPLAN, who will leave for England soon to assume his new duties as UA managing director.

•

RED KANN, vice-president of Quigley Publications, and MRS. KANN will arrive in Hollywood today after six weeks' visit in New York.

•

FRED JOYCE, formerly public relations director for United Artists in Hollywood, has been appointed chief of publicity and entertainment for the Stevens Hotel, Chicago.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warner general sales manager, returns to the home office today from Coast conferences with JACK L. WARNER and CHARLES EINFELD.

•

DAVID ROSE, Paramount's managing director for Great Britain, is expected to return from the Coast the first week in February.

•

MAURICE N. WOLF, M-G-M Boston and New Haven district manager, was in town for home office conferences at the weekend.

•

HENRY NEEDLES, Warner Hartford district manager, is back at his office after a week's business trip to New York.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists Western division manager, returned over the weekend after a 10-day business trip.

•

NEIL AGNEW, Paramount vice-president and general sales manager, will leave for the Coast at the end of February.

•

EZRA GOODMAN of the Warner studio publicity department arrived in New York at the weekend for a brief visit.

•

ROBERT M. GILLHAM, Paramount advertising and publicity director, returned from Washington at the weekend.

•

FRED THORTSEN, M-G-M Omaha salesman, is back on the job after an illness of several months.

•

BRYAN FOY, 20th Century-Fox producer, arrived in New York at the weekend from the Coast.

•

PHIL ENGLE, United Artists Boston publicity representative, was a recent visitor in Hartford.

•

ARNOLD PRESSBURGER, producer, will arrive in New York today from Hollywood.

Tradewise...

By SHERWIN KANE

HOWARD DIETZ, writing in the current issue of M-G-M's slick-paper magazine, *Lion's Roar,* good humoredly takes to task the authors of what he describes as "the three outstanding adversely critical pieces that have come out this year" (against motion pictures and/or the industry.) His three-cornered selection is a syndicated column of Dorothy Thompson's entitled "A Soldier's Criticism"; Marcia Winn's muck-raking series in *The Chicago Tribune,* and a column by Richard Watts in the *N. Y. Herald-Tribune.*

Tradewise, on Jan. 10, presented a few observations suggested by the Richard Watts column, which was one of those peculiar, periodic indulgences in in the pastime of comparing the screen with the stage. It is Watts' belief that the screen "is an imitative dramatic medium of inferior merit." Because Dietz in his observations on the Watts' epistle cites a fact which is most pertinent to any reply to Watts, and which *Tradewise* overlooked, we quote from the M-G-M advertising and publicity director's article:

"What annoys him (Watts) most is the parasitical fashion in which the cinema has attached itself to the drama. Here I disagree, believing most of the case to be the other way around. The theatre has attached itself to the cinema and there is hardly a producer on Broadway who will spend money on a show that has no chance for a Hollywood purchase. The theatre has largely become the trial balloon for the movies. As for the actors who never come back (to the stage from Hollywood), most of them started out for Hollywood in the first place and used the theatre as a sort of wedge. That, in fact, is one of the real shortcomings of the theatre. Hollywood has more glamour for the actor, although less for the playwright."

• •

This column's recent "viewing with alarm" on the subject of NBC's elaborate newspaper advertising campaign to induce as much of the metropolitan public as it could to remain at home and listen to its key New York station appears now to have been utterly groundless. The campaign, keyed to 660 on the dial, made comparisons of what the pleasure-seeking public could obtain for $6.60 with what the key station offered for free, which included some names commonly used to sell theatre tickets.

Well, not an exhibitor voice was raised in protest loud enough, at least, to reach our cupped ear. We asked a couple of Broadway managers "How come?" Their answers appeared to place them in the same category with today's neighborhood meat markets and retail liquor stores and called to mind that sign not infrequently seen in restaurants: "Be courteous to our waiters. They're harder to get than customers."

Apparently, no harm was done to theatre business by the NBC campaign. However there is something vaguely intriguing in the thought that, as newspaper rationing of theatre and film advertising space grows more stringent, the industry is turning more and more to radio as a medium for getting across its urgings to the public to quit the family hearthside and park the carcass in a theatre. Concurrently, radio steps up its pleas to old John Q. to stay at home (i.e., away from the cinema) and tune in on this or that station, and uses film stars as persuaders.

There is something futile about this pattern. Radio gets more people to stay home to listen to film advertisers' messages urging them to go out. However, a look into most theatres is proof enough that the very least that can be said for it is it ain't the theatres that's sufferin'.

• •

Dollar publicity being a topic of periodic interest to the industry, we pass along this bit of philosophy on the subject contributed by a Manhattan hack driver. His observations were made as a result of his having sighted another cab entangled with a truck.

"There you are," he said. "Cabbies are making more money today than they've ever made before but they get into trouble hurrying to make more. They brag in the joints about making $50 a day. Then they're held up by thugs who've overheard them. In the first place they're not making $50 a day. But no matter what you're making, it's good business to keep it to yourself."

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 23

THE Screen Readers Guild has changed its name to the Screen Story Analysts Guild and has elected the following officers: Florence Mischel, president; David Hubbard, vice president; Jesse Burns, recording secretary; Frances Millington, corresponding secretary, and David Robison, treasurer.

•

Leslie Fenton, invalided from the British Army, has been signed by Lester Cowan and his initial directorial assignment will be announced shortly. He is the first Hollywood director to return from service. In the meantime, Fenton will advise on battle sequences on Ernie Pyle's "This Is Your War," to be released by United Artists.

•

With $530,000 spent for bonds, RKO today took the studio lead in the 4th War Loan Drive, according to War Finance Committee chairman Henry Ginsberg. Warners and Universal led during the first three days with sales of $150,000 each.

•

Jacques Samossoud, former conductor of the Chicago Opera and the National Opera of Washington, has signed with Producers Corp. of America. He recently completed work as musical supervisor of PCA's "Knickerbocker Holiday."

•

RKO has bought "The Pumpkin Shell", an original screen story by Frederick Hazlitt Brennan. Adrian Scott will produce it, and Alfred Werker has been signed to direct.

•

Eddie White, Republic western producer, has been promoted to features. His first assignment will be "Hepcat Madness," a musical.

•

"Prison Babies," with the King brothers producing, has been added to the Monogram schedule.

Final Conferences on Tax Bill Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, Jan.. 23.—Final conferences between Senate and House of Representatives conferees on the new tax bill which includes the increased theatre admission tax will begin here Tuesday with an agreement expected to be reached in three or four days.

The Senate passed the bill without a record vote at the weekend after 10 days of debate and returned the bill to the House.

Collins Gets Ninth

ATLANTA, Jan. 23.—The purchase of the Garden Hills is reported here, the ninth house now operated by William J. Collins & Associates. Others include the Buckhead, Atlanta; Habersham, Clarksville; Franklin, Lavonia; Ritz and Star, Toccoa; Rabun, Clayton, Ga.; Dixie, Cornelia, all in Georgia, and the Macon, Franklin, N. C.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Industry Sets Mark In Charities Drive

The industry-wide effort just concluded on behalf of the New York and Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities "was the most successful ever conducted by the amusement division of that organization," it was announced here at the weekend by David Bernstein, who with Albert Warner is co-chairman.

Final reports were made at a gathering in the Hotel Astor Friday with representatives of motion pictures, legitimate theatres, bandleaders, broadcasters, music publishers and night clubs present. Nathan S. Spingold, campaign manager for the industry, joined Bernstein in saluting the assemblage for its generous response.

Loew Shifts Replace Managers in Service

Replacing two managers who have entered the armed forces, Joseph R. Vogel, general manager of Loew's Theatres outside New York, has made a series of personnel changes.

Ruth Bolton, assistant at the State in Syracuse, will take over the Strand there in place of Eddie Richardson, who will go to the Granada in Cleveland succeeding Carl Rogers who will move to the Esquire in Toledo. From the latter spot Harry Klotz will be transferred to the Broad in Columbus to fill the post of William Aiken who will assume the management of the Grand in Atlanta, which was left vacant when Boyd Fry entered the armed services.

Homer MacCallom, publicity man for the State in Houston, will become manager there in place of Francis Deering, who has joined the Navy.

'Higher' Fetches Tall $7,300 in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 23.—Business was thriving here again this week. At the Roger Sherman "Higher and Higher" and "Gangway for Tomorrow" took $7,300, over by $900. The Loew-Poli got $8,000 in five days on "Cry Havoc" and "Whispering Footsteps."

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 10:

"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
"Coastal Command" (RKO)
BIJOU — (1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $4,700. (Average: $3,500).

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
COLLEGE—(1,565) (40c-50c) 5 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $3,200).

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
LOEW-POLI — (3,005) (40c-50c), 5 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $9,300).

"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Tornado" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $6,400. (Average: $6,400).

"Higher and Higher" (RKO
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,300. (Average: $6,400).

Loew's Workers Sue For Overtime Wages

Thirty-seven service employes of the Loew Building here sued in Federal Court Friday for recovery of overtime wages said to aggregate $29,078.

In addition to seeking recovery for themselves, the plaintiffs are suing on behalf of all former employes who worked for varying periods since the Fair Labor Standards Act became operative.

Review

"Casanova in Burlesque"

(Republic)

JOE E. BROWN, he of the generous mouth and cheerful physiognomy, is back again, this time in a tailor-made vehicle furnished him by Republic. And the legions of Brown fans and those interested observers, the country's exhibitors, will find it welcome news. Frank Gill, Jr.'s screenplay for "Casanova in Burlesque," from an idea by John Wales, has kept the action moving briskly. Director Leslie Goodwins has permitted Brown to cavort all over the lot, reach into his bag of specialties as a dialectician, comedy singer and quick-change artist. A fine climax is achieved by "swinging" Shakespeare, tweaking the Bard's nose no little, and extracting much merriment in the process.

Brown, who has finished a summer tour as burlesque star and, chameleon-like, changes into his professorial role, goes back to Wequot College to direct a Shakespearean festival. June Havoc, an ambitious burlesque performer, worms Brown's secret from his father, Roger Imhof, and decides that the resulting publicity would further her career if she should be starred. When the troupe walks out on him, disgusted by Miss Havoc's incompetency as an aspiring Juliet, Brown decides to offer a swing version of "The Taming of the Shrew," which is a smash hit.

Associate producer Albert J. Cohen saw to it that Brown is surrounded by competent support. Miss Havoc, in addition to her fine straight performance, manages to get off a couple of torrid numbers. Dale Evans delivers as a solid sender of swing; Marjorie Gateson is amusing as a fluttery type; Ian Keith is a Shakespearean "ham," while Lucien Littlefield and Harry Tyler round out the cast.

Credit Kim Gannon and Walter Kent for some catchy tunes and clever lyrics, and Dave Gould for well-paced dance routines. Aside from the implausibility of Brown's double-life character, the proceedings are entertaining.

Running time, 74 mins. "G."* Release date, Feb. 19.

CHARLES RYWECK

**"G" denotes general classification.*

NRLB Hearing Feb. 15 On Election of SPU

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 23.—The National Labor Relations Board has scheduled for Feb. 15 a hearing to determine whether the Screen Players Union represents enough extra players to warrant holding a collective bargaining agency election, according to NLRB director Edward J. Eagen.

The heads of all studios have been notified of the hearing, as has the Screen Actors Guild, which now holds the bargaining rights under which SPU has sought autonomy with a separate charter from the Associated Actors and Artistes of America.

Yesterday the SPU met with attorney Alex Schullman and discussed the status of extras under the SAG.

Disney 'Snow White' Midwest Promotion

Promoting a four-state "premiere" of the re-issuance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" which RKO will launch Feb. 24, Adriana Caselotti, the original Snow White voice, will leave New York today for Cincinnati, first stop on a five-week tour of the Midwest, visiting theatres, schools, war plants and clubs in 50 cities.

Traveling with Miss Caselotti will be Antoinette Spitzer, Eastern publicity representative of Walt Disney Productions.

Myers Speaks Tonight

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23.—Abram Myers, general counsel for National Allied, will address an Eastern Pennsylvania Allied meeting here tonight at the Hotel Warwick, climaxing the sixth annual conclave of the organization.

Smith Files L. A. Clearance Complaint

A clearance complaint has been filed by G. L. Smith, operating the York Theatre, Los Angeles, against the consenting companies at the Los Angeles tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here at the weekend.

Complaint alleges that present clearance granted to first-run theatres in Los Angeles of 63 or more days and the seven days' clearance of the Park and Franklin over the York are unreasonable. The plaintiff seeks complete elimination of clearance of the Park and Franklin over the York, and a reduction of Los Angeles first run clearance to 49 days at a 30c admission price and 35 days at a 35c admission.

IATSE Board Starts Cincinnati Meetings

CINCINNATI, Jan. 23.—The executive board of the IATSE, national projectionists and stage-hands union, will start its semi-annual meeting here today at the Netherland Plaza Hotel. It will continue all week.

Among items on the agenda is the trouble in the Chicago local, where members are suing the union there and major circuits and Allied States for alleged conspiracy in blocking wage rises. The Chicago extortionists' prosecution in New York may also come up for discussion.

Raibourn to Speak

Paul Raibourn, president of Television Productions, Paramount subsidiary, will address the American Television Society tomorrow, in the Terrace Room of the Capitol Hotel here. He will talk on "The International Future of Television."

Miller Predicts Gov't Air Control

Neville Miller, president of the National Association of Broadcasters forecast full government control of radio programs, station ownership and the hiring of personnel unless the Congress passes a new law to replace the present one by which radio has been regulated for the past seventeen years, in an address at a luncheon of the Radio Executives Club at the Hotel Shelton here at the week-end.

"The Federal Communications Commission has gradually moved into regulation of matters in which it has no business," Miller declared, "and now there is no way to kick the commission back into its rightful place without a new law." Miller said that the radio law of 1927, "passed long before anybody knew much about radio problems, has led the FCC to exceed its powers in many spheres."

Miller charged that the FCC had shown opposition to any law permitting station operators to appeal from its decisions either to Congress or the courts. "There is no way today to attack a FCC ruling without putting your station license in jeopardy," he said. "If you lose your appeal, you lose your license."

Republic Previews 'Fighting SeaBees'

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 23.—A reception will be held today at the Hotel Willard here in connection with a press-preview of Republic's "The Fighting SeaBees," which will open on Jan. 28 at the Earle and Ambassador Theatres.

Officers of the U. S. Navy and the Bureau of Yards and Docks, and the newspaper and radio press, will attend, as will Frank La Falce, publicity director for Warners; Jake Flax, Republic franchise holder in Washington, and Steve Edwards, Republic's director of publicity. Lt. Colonel Albert G. Skelton of the U. S. Marine Corps will present a silver SeaBee identification bracelet to SeaBee Edward R. Saulnier of Washington, D. C.

A similar preview and reception is also being held at the Copley Plaza in Boston, where teh production will have its first-run showing at the Paramount and Fenway there, January 27. Branch manager Jack Davis has invited Navy personnel, as well as press and radio representatives, to honor SeaBee Martin P. White. Similar previews and receptions were held in Dallas, where the picture will open at the Majestic on February 3.

Heads Red Cross Group

Sigmund Gottlober, director of the Foreign Language Film Critics Circle here, president of the Foreign Language Press Institute and publisher of magazines, has been named chairman, for the second year, of the foreign language division of the Committee on Public Information of the Red Cross 1944 War Fund of New York City.

'Bernadette' Preview

Exhibitors and company field men will be guests of home office executives at a preview of "The Song of Bernadette" at the Rivoli Theatre here tomorrow.

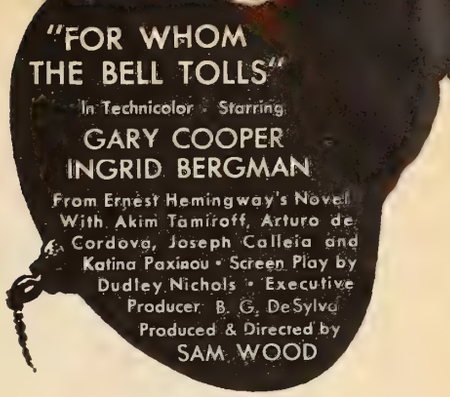
This is the Last Day

OF A RUN THAT



HAS MADE MOTION PICTUR

This is the last day for "FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS" at the New York Rivoli. ¶ It has run for 27 weeks and 5 days. ¶ For the first 13 weeks it was presented on a roadshow policy, and thereafter in continuous performances. ¶ All available records indicate that this is the longest single run in history for any picture that was not shown exclusively on a two-a-day basis. ¶ The 25th week's business exceeded that of the first week and equalled the first week under the grind policy. ¶ Nearly one million people have seen "FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS" in this one theatre. ¶ Its remarkable record here is representative of its brilliant success nationally.



"Variety's" survey of grosses of all leading pictures shows that "FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS" is by far "*the boxoffice champion of the year*" on the strength of its first 126 engagements alone, and estimates that its total rentals will be the second highest in the history of motion pictures. ¶ The New York engagement is terminated now only because of the pressure of previous commitments by the Rivoli Theatre. ¶ In accordance with our original and repeated announcements, this picture will not be shown anywhere at regular admission prices before 1945. *Paramount Pictures Inc.*

ISTORY

"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"

OPENS LOEW'S METROPOLITAN CIRCUIT
FEBRUARY 24TH FOR FULL-WEEK ENGAGEMENT
AT ADVANCED PRICES

THE SONG YOUR BOX-OFFICE TAUGHT YOU

"Only ONE Company can be FIRST . . . "





DR. LEO, THE PHILOSOPHER, says:

Harvest is something for every year. A good year, then two poor ones, does not make for security. The FRIENDLY soil yields a Golden Harvest year after year.

"Not for just a day, not for just a

"Our Two Big Jobs in January: Fourth War Loan and March of Dimes!"

THE FACTS!

M-G-M FIRST IN THIS SURVEY

"Random Harvest" voted Best Picture of the Year in Film Daily poll. M-G-M was First on the 10-Best List last year too—and the year before! Also topped the field in Film Daily's "Filmdom's Famous Five" poll.



M-G-M FIRST IN THESE SURVEYS



M-G-M has 70 Box-office Champs, next company 44 in all-time FAME (Quigley Publications) Survey.



More Top-Grossing hits than any other company in Box-office Magazine Record's Survey.

M-G-M FIRST IN THESE SURVEYS



LEFT: Tops the Ten leading Box-office Pictures with "Random Harvest."

RIGHT: M-G-M leads the industry with 32 Top-Grossers in 1943.



P. S. AND SMALL TOWNS NOTE!
M-G-M led the field in stars and hits in Country Gentleman Magazine Annual Survey!

And in LIFE Magazine:

"THE NAME METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER MEANS MORE IN THE MOTION PICTURE BUSINESS THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE NAME."

eason, but ALWAYS!"



RKO-Radio to Handle Spitz-Goetz Product

(Continued from page 1)

in the deal nor the period of time during which it will remain in effect, but Ned E. Depinet, RKO-Radio Pictures president who left for New York over the weekend, is expected to amplify details on his arrival there as to specific provisions. It was announced, however, that production would start immediately on the first film, "Casanova Brown," to be produced by Nunnally Johnson and directed by Sam Wood, starring Gary Cooper.

It is also announced that the second International film, "Belle of the Yukon," will go before the cameras late in February, to be followed by another Nunnally Johnson production starring Edward G. Robinson, under the direction of Fritz Lang. Sonia Henie will head the cast of a Technicolor musical titled "It's a Pleasure," set to start June 1.

The RKO-Radio - International deal marks the renewal of an old association for Spitz, who served as president of the former organization from 1935 to 1940. Goetz was in charge of all production at 20th Century-Fox studios before he left that organization to join Spitz in the organization of International Pictures.

Kansas City Gives 'O'Rourke' $18,000

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 23.—First-run spurted here this week, in which there were no holdovers. The weather was mild. "Princess O'Rourke" leads with an estimated $18,000, supported by "The Seventh Victim."

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 19-20:

"Gung Ho!" (Univ.)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $8,250. (Average: $5,500).
"What a Woman!" (Col.)
"Swing out the Blues" (Col.)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $14,000).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
"Seventh Victim" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $10,000).
"So This Is Washington!" (RKO)
"O, My Darling Clementine" (Rep.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,400).
"Gung Ho!" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,600).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $1,500. (Average: $1,450).

Chicago Anti-Trust Suit Is Postponed

CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—The Jackson Park Theatre's $360,000 anti-trust suit against Balaban and Katz, Warner Bros. Theatres and the five consent decree companies, which was scheduled to start here today, has again been postponed to February.

The suit was originally set for Nov. 1, but was postponed at the time deposition testimony was obtained from James Coston, Jack Shumew and Harry Seed, by Thomas C. McConnell, attorney for the plaintiff.

New Itinerary Set for Star 'Bondardier' Tour

(Continued from page 1)

Parker, Jan. 17-31; Dallas, Houston, Tulsa and Oklahoma City; Red Skelton, Jan. 19-22; Denver: Fred MacMurray and Madelaine LeBeau, Jan. 21-24; New Orleans: Errol Flynn, Jan. 18-Jan. 27; Portland, Ore.: Gene Kelly, Jan. 18-20, and Dinah Shore, Jan. 18; Buffalo: Franchot Tone, Jan. 28-31; Atlanta: Jane Withers, Jan. 20 to 28; Kansas City: Errol Flynn, Jan. 30-31; Hartford: Brian Aherne and Joan Fontaine; Seattle and Boise: Ella Raines, Jan. 18-31; Boston: Alan Marshall, Jan. 18-31; Francis Dee, Jan. 24-31; Baltimore: Anne Baxter, Jan. 24-31.

Some of the early bond-selling results obtained by the Bondardiers follow: In Chicago Jinx Falkenberg sold $2,000,000 worth at a National Retail Furniture Assn. banquet and $200,000 worth at the Du Sable High School, where she appeared with Duke Ellington and his band. Dennis Morgan and Arline Judge disposed of bonds worth $131,500 at the Brown Steel Tank Co. in Minneapolis and at two high schools there. At two rallies in Amsterdam, N. Y., Albert Dekker and Helen Walker brought in $575,000.

Rolling Church Takes Bond Films to Field

OMAHA, Jan. 23.—As part of the 4th War Loan Drive one Iowa exhibitor has hitched a model church by trailer to his automobile and is making rounds of non-theatre towns, showing pictures and selling bonds.

Omaha hopes to reach its $6,000,000 goal at on stroke Tuesday with a Paramount Theatre premiere of "Lassie Come Home." Arrangements are being made by William Miskell, exhibitor chairman and Tri-State Theatres district manager.

Coordinator between Miskell and Frank Hannon, distributor chairman, is Rolin Stonebrook of the Omaha. Pinky McIlvaine of the Brandeis is handling the downtown houses; Herman Levy, the Goldberg houses; Sid Epstein, the Epstein circuit; and Harry Watts of the Muse, the independents.

Branch managers assisting on the committee are Jesse McBride, Harold Johnson, Joe Jacobs, John Kemptgen, Harry Lefholtz, Bill Barker, Don McLucas, Karl Howe and Joe Scott.

10,000 Bonds Sold At Kansas City Show

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 23.—A "Meet Your Navy" show that started the 4th War Loan Drive here resulted in the sale of 10,000 bonds, half of which were sold at theatres. Nick Sonday of the Fairway Theatre leads so far in this territory, having sold a bond per seat without a premiere. Bonds bought to date at his theatre amount to $326,000.

$1,250,000 in a First Day in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 23.—Bond sales for a single day of the 4th War Loan Drive here were reported at $1,250,000. An all-soldier show at the Yale Theatre, with a $1,000 bond required for every seat was sold out. It will be repeated at the Poli Theatre on Feb. 26.

Scouts Will Sell In 'Aldrich' Tieup

DALLAS, Jan. 23.—A campaign for Boy Scout bond selling in connection with Paramount's "Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" has been outlined by the Interstate Theatres of Texas, mainly during "Boy Scout Week," Feb. 12-18. Various troops will stage sales competitions.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war bond campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

S. LONDER, Park Plaza Theatre, Bronx, N. Y.
LOUIS H. KENNEY, State Theatre, East Milton, Mass.
DILLON D. WOLVERON, Sylvan Theatre, Chelsea, Mich.
HUGH MARTIN, Colfax Theatre, South Bend, Ind.
BILL POWERS, Wilma Theatre, Missoula, Mont.
JOHN W. BRADY, Lyric Theatre, Blue Island, Ill.
C. V. ROBERTS, Empress Theatre, Fremont, Neb.
AL SMITH, State Theatre, Richmond, Cal.
EVAN THOMPSON, Colonial Theatre, Pompton Lakes, N. J.
HAROLD DE GRAW, Palace Theatre, Oneonta, N. Y.
BOB ANDERSON, Fox American Theatre, Caldwell, Ida.
HAROLD E. RICE, Paramount Theatre, Denver.

500 Showmen Help Launch 'Dimes' Drive

(Continued from page 1)

time are not 'canned' statements prepared by someone else, but are personal communications," he said.

Edward L. Alperson, chairman of the meeting, predicted that the industry goal of $3,000,000 might be exceeded by $1,000,000. Harry Brandt, co-chairman of the New York WAC, paid tribute to exhibitors for their work in the campaign and reported on the success of the "flying squadron," consisting of himself, Oscar Doob, Dr. John Lavan, and Alperson, on their tour of key centers. He complimented Herman Robbins and Don Velde and the staff of National Screen, for their assistance in the "Dimes" and other campaigns.

Ernest Emerling, of Loew's, "Dimes" publicity chairman, urged exhibitors to run the trailer and take up collections at every performance, and to make use of coin cards, wishing wells, and counter-collectors. He announced that reports of collections during the first day of the campaign (Thursday) were, in most cases, 50 to 100 per cent greater than in 1943.

Emerling Lauds Press

Emerling lauded the trade press for its assistance in the campaign in reaching exhibitors and securing their pledges.

A high spot of the breakfast-meeting was a demonstration of the Sister Kenny method for treating infantile paralysis. New York's 40 legitimate theatres, all of which have pledged to take up collections this year, were represented.

In addition to the speakers, the following were seated on the dais: Charles C. Moskowitz, Don Jacocks, Don Velde, Vincent Jacobi, of Stage Hands Local No. 1, Bob Wolff, Walter Vincent, Max Cohen, Gus Eysell, Sam Rinzler, Joseph Bernhard, Harry Lowenstein, William White, Harry Kalmine, Frank Meyers, Arthur Israel.

Decree Draft Readied For 'Final' Review

(Continued from page 1)

tives for their reactions, so that he will be in a position at that time to state why some sections of the company proposals have had to be presented as they are.

The meeting was arranged for the same group which made the journey last Monday, when Clark told them their proposals were unsatisfactory in a number of respects and would have to be rewritten and that whatever they sent down would be turned over to the exhibitors for consideration without further ado. These include Spyros P. Skouras and John F. Caskey, counsel for 20th-Fox; N. P. Rathvon and Major Leslie E. Thompson, RKO Theatres; J. R. Rubin, Loew's; Barney Balaban, Paramount, and Joseph Hazen and Nathan Levenson, Warners.

It is understood that the distributors' cancellation provisions were not in accord with the minimum requirements as seen by the Department. There are also differences of opinion over the treatment of the distributors' own theatres. In the field of arbitration the distributors are opposing the proposal that appeal boards be set up as required in the various districts and are insisting that appeal activities continue to be centered in New York.

Wright Assigned to Study Film Cartels

(Continued from page 1)

were made several weeks ago by the anti-trust division, which would be concerned with such matters and which currently, under Assistant Attorney-General Wendell Berge, is engaged in a vigorous campaign against cartels.

Once the groundwork was laid, the matter was turned over to the film unit where Wright yesterday said there have been no developments and it is now a "matter of watchful waiting" to see what transpires.

Forewarned of possible Government action, it is expected that Rank and the companies will take care to see that any agreements reached are well within the boundaries of the statutes, which will be satisfactory to the Department, where officials feel that prevention of the creation of a monopoly is cheaper than and as effective as tearing one down.

Knoepfle Honored

CINCINNATI, Jan. 23. — Rudolph Knoepfle, Republic salesman, president of the Cinema Club of Cincinnati since its organization three years ago until recently succeeded by Ross Williams, was named president emeritus at a meeting held here recently.

Arrangements also were completed for the installation dinner, Feb. 14.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 17 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1944 TEN CENTS

Legion Tieup Aims to Sell Million Bonds

Plan Will Use Children As 'Home Heroes'

A nationwide tieup with the American Legion, designed to sell a million extra bonds, was announced here yesterday by Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry's 4th War Loan Drive.

The plan, worked out with the Legion's national commander, W. H. Atherton, and based on an original project of I. Epstein of Philadelphia, calls for cooperation between theatres in every community and several thousand Legion posts.

Basic formula is the use of children as "super-salesmen." They will register at theatres as "Junior Home Front Heroes" and, with the sale of one bond each will be awarded official Legion citations. A system of pro-

(*Continued on page 8*)

'Last' Decree Meet With Majors Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Tomorrow's conference between Department of Justice officials and executives of the five consenting companies is expected to be the last general get-together before the consent decree proposals of the distributors are taken up with exhibitor representatives.

Revised a half-dozen times during many weeks of negotiations, the new draft is expected by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark to be the final word of the distributors as to what they can offer in the way of concessions although, he pointed out, the door is still open for the Department to reject the proposals in toto or demand further changes.

Congress Committee Meets on Tax Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Conferees of House and Senate will meet tomorrow in the first of a series of sessions at which tax differences between the two will be worked out.

The major question with respect to the film industry is whether the new admission tax shall be two cents on each 10 or fraction thereof or one cent on each five or major fraction thereof, representing, respectively, the different House and Senate provisions.

Canada Gov't Calls Owners on Trade Practices

TORONTO, Jan. 24.—Chairman Donald Gordon of the Government's Wartime Prices and Trade Board has invited officers of the National Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada to attend a conference of high federal officials at Ottawa on Feb. 8 to discuss film trade practices in Canada.

A prepared statement, said to deal with rental contracts and booking priorities in relation to board regulations which control the film industry, will be formally presented to the government representatives at that meeting. It is understood the government will be represented by Finance Minister J. L. Ilsley and a deputy of Premier

(*Continued on page 8*)

Licensing Resurvey Ordered In Canada

TORONTO, Jan. 24.—Because of complicated musical copyright developments in the Dominion through applications and objections of various performing right organizations on the subject of collecting license fees, Justice J. T. Thorson, chairman of the Copyright Appeal Board of the federal government, has ordered a complete

(*Continued on page 8*)

UNITED EXHIBITOR FRONT ON TAXES

U. S. Collects $165,730,178 On Ticket Tax

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Federal admission tax collections in 1943 hit $165,730,178, more than $19,000,000 above the $146,372,271 collected in 1942, it was disclosed today by the Internal Revenue Bureau.

The 1943 record was made in spite of the fact that December collections dropped to a six-month low of $13,048,274, from $16,388,863 in November, and were nearly $3,000,000 under the $15,922,909 recorded in the final month of 1942.

Collections during the year, bureau

(*Continued on page 3*)

Top Showmen Will See 'Bernadette'

Twentieth Century-Fox's "The Song of Bernadette" will be given a special invitational preview at the Rivoli Theatre here tonight with industry, social and civic notables attend-

(*Continued on page 3*)

National Tax Council of Theatre Owners Due Next Week

Exhibitors of all classes are expected to participate in a national council now in the making to preclude exhibitor groups taking inconsistent and conflicting positions in matters of taxation.

Top representatives of both affiliated and independent groups have conferred on the plan and are understood to be in accord, with formal announcement coming probably next week following the Chicago board meeting of Allied States, to which it will be presented for ratification by Abram F. Myers, national Allied's chairman and counsel.

Because the MPTOA board has no meeting scheduled, Edward L. Kuykendall, president, now is polling members by mail, with favorable results expected in time to permit announcement of details at the time of Allied's action. The national exhibitors' tax conference or committee which will emerge with the plan will have no president and is expected to confine itself solely to tax matters in presenting a united front.

National exhibition's tax defense plan calls for the designation of three representatives from each exhibitor classification—Allied States, MPTOA,

(*Continued on page 8*)

Industry and the Nation Launch 'Dimes' Campaign

Film Manufacture Increases 16 Percent

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Manufacture of raw film, both motion picture and still, during the first nine months of 1943 totaled 413,028,000 feet, an increase of 16 per cent over the 1941 output, it was revealed here today by the War Production Board. Heavily increased usage by military services accounted for the jump and the absorption of footage curtailed from Hollywood production.

In the first disclosure of film production since the beginning of the war, the WPB reported that shipments by eight manufacturers, representing virtually the entire industry, amounted to 403,528,000 feet. No comparable figure for 1941 was available.

A large glass "Wishing Well" constructed by the film industry's March of Dimes campaign committee was unveiled by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia at Times Square yesterday to inaugurate the opening of the infantile paralysis drive in theatres and elsewhere, to run all week. The "Well" will be used as a depository for moneys donated by the public and its unveiling was preceded by a motorcade parade of film executives and screen, stage and radio stars.

The parade was led by the industry's executive committee of the March of Dimes, including E. L. Alperson, Barney Balaban, Gus Eyssell, Harry Kalamine, Charles Moskowitz, Spyros Skouras and Harry Brandt.

Stars in the parade included Constance Bennett, Ralph Forbes, Igor

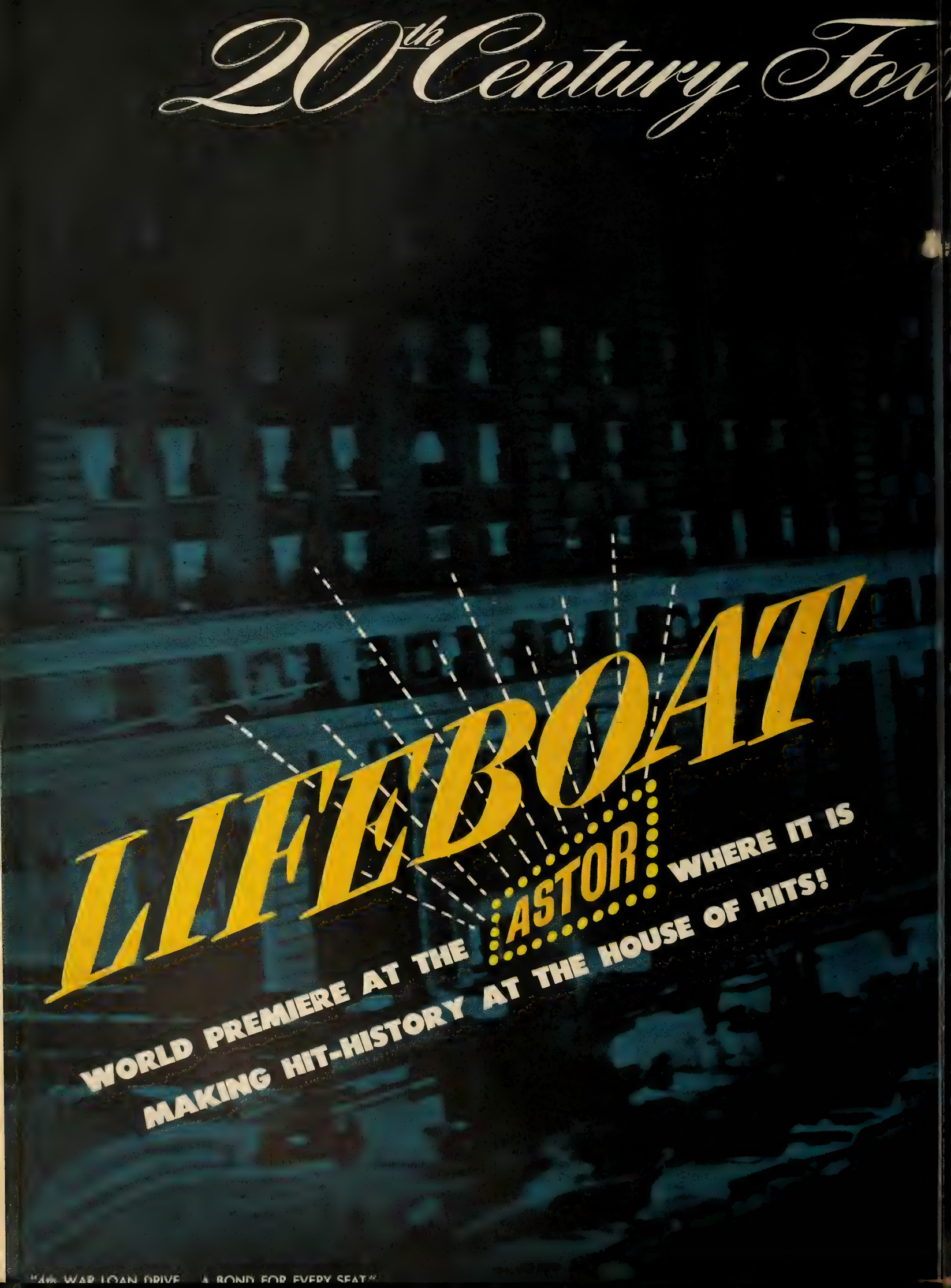
(*Continued on page 8*)

Rosenberg Succeeds Lipton at Columbia

Frank P. Rosenberg has been appointed director of advertising, publicity and exploitation for Columbia Pictures, replacing David A. Lipton, who will be inducted into the Army. The change will become effective on Feb. 7, day of Lipton's induction.

Rosenberg has been with Columbia since August, 1929. For the past two and a half years he has been manager of the company's exploitation department, handling special events and certain national publicity including radio tieups.

As previously revealed, Lawrence H. Lipskin will become advertising manager, Hortense Schorr will continue as publicity manager. Harry K. Williams will succeed Rosenberg as exploitation manager.


20th Century Fox
LIFEBOAT
WORLD PREMIERE AT THE ASTOR WHERE IT IS
MAKING HIT-HISTORY AT THE HOUSE OF HITS!
4th WAR LOAN DRIVE A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT

Takes Over Broadway

THE SONG OF BERNADETTE

GALA PREMIERE AT THE RIVOLI TONIGHT

WITH THE EYES OF THE NATION ON IT!

SAG Asks Warner Suit Be Dismissed

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 24.—The Screen Actors Guild filed a demurrer Saturday to Warners' suit for $500,000 damages and an injunction restraining application of the Guild's Rule 33 in the company's "Hollywood Canteen" production. It asked the Superior Court to dismiss Warners' action on four specific grounds, namely, that "it failed to state in what manner SAG's Rule 33 is in conflict with the basic agreement; whether Warners actually offered employment to any actor in 'Hollywood Canteen', the terms of such an offer, whether any actors were able or unwilling to accept such employment, or whether the rule prevented any actor from playing a part in the production; in what manner the application of Rule 33 constituted a 'boycott' of 'Hollywood Canteen' or how it 'terrorized Guild members', and why Warners were unable to produce the picture using a large number of actors employed by the studio."

Disavows Opposition To SPU on Extras

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 24.—The Screen Actors' Guild has no objections to a National Labor Relations Board election by the Screen Players Union to determine a bargaining agency for extras provided that only extras vote, the Guild today told MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

"We hold that any other autonomous union in the field must represent only extras, not bit players and character actors who are under SAG's jurisdiction," a guild spokesman said. SPU, which claims to represent 1,800 members who have designated it as their bargaining agent, has won an NLRB hearing for Feb. 15 to determine whether it represents enough extra players to warrant holding a collective bargaining agency election.

Trilling Installed as M.P. Bookers Head

Paul Moss, New York's license commissioner, company sales executives, circuit heads and exchange managers were among speakers and invited guests at the dinner and installation of officers of the Motion Picture Bookers Club at the Cafe Loyale here last night.

George Trilling of the Fabian circuit was installed as new president succeeding Bernard Brooks; Irving Ludwig took over as vice-president.

Monogram is Out of Rosyl Anti-Trust Suit

Monogram Pictures, through a stipulation entered into by attorneys, has been eliminated as a defendant in the triple damage Sherman anti-trust action filed by Rosyl Amusement Corp., operator of the Cameo, Jersey City, against the eight major film companies, as well as five theatre circuits in Hudson County, N. J.

Personal Mention

ARNOLD PRESSBURGER, United Artists producer, arrived in New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

CECIL RUDNICK, formerly of National Screen, Boston, was honored recently at a dinner there given by industry friends on his entering military service.

•

HARRY LYONS, RO 1/C, formerly of M-G-M's sales department, London, is visiting the home office here on furlough. He will return to England shortly.

•

SGT. SIDNEY GANS, formerly publicity representative for Columbia in the New England area, is now stationed overseas with the Army.

•

JOHN R. WOOD, March of Time treasurer and sales manager, has returned to New York from Detroit and Indianapolis.

•

ARNOLD STOLTZ, United Artists' exploitation director, was the weekend guest speaker of the Cuvier Press Club in Cincinnati.

•

MONTY GOWTHORPE, Paramount theatre executive, will leave New York for Tucson, Ariz., in a few days to bake out a persistent cold.

•

HARRY MICHALSON, RKO short subjects sales manager, returned to New York yesterday after a three-week business trip.

•

JUNE DOUGLAS, cashier at Republic's Des Moines office, is ill at her home.

•

BERNARD LEVY, Connecticut supervisor for Lieberman's circuit, Hartford, is in Boston on business.

•

HERMAN RIPPS, M-G-M Albany branch manager, was a home office visitor at the weekend.

•

CHARLES WEINER, Winnipeg theatre operator, is on a four-month vacation in Florida.

•

E. M. LOEW, Boston circuit operator, has arrived in Miami for a combination vacation and business visit.

•

JOHNNY JONES, Chicago distributor and exhibitor, is in St. Louis.

•

EARL WRIGHT, 20th-Fox salesman in New Haven, is on sick leave.

E. M. SAUNDERS of MGM and MRS. SAUNDERS will leave for the Coast tomorrow on a vacation trip.

•

L. M. DEVANEY, RKO sales manager in Canada, reports the marriage of his son, LIEUT. MURRAY L. DEVANEY, at Halifax, N. S., to SUB-LIEUT. IRMA MALCOLM of the Canadian Naval Service.

•

BEN COHEN, former manager of the College Theatre, New Haven, and for the past few years with Loew's abroad, writes friends about the birth of a baby daughter in Johannesburg, South Africa.

•

PHIL DOW, assistant to HARRY GOLD, United Artists Eastern division manager, will be given a party by UA associates tomorrow night at the Warwick Hotel. Dow will be married Saturday to MISS SALLY DRAUTZ.

•

BRUCE GODSHAW, prominent in Chicago film circles and former Quigley Publications Chicago correspondent, will move to Van Nuys, Cal., about May 1.

•

J. H. SEIDELMAN of Universal will leave the Coast studio this week for a two weeks' vacation in Arizona before returning to New York.

•

PVT. D. JOHN PHILLIOS, formerly Paramount short subjects publicity manager, is in New York on furlough.

•

CHARLES ROBERTS, Columbia's supervisor for Central America, arrived in New York over the weekend from Mexico City.

•

MURRAY SCHAEFER, 20th-Fox student salesman at Albany, is in New Haven temporarily.

•

H. M. RICHEY of Loew's will leave for Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Feb. 6 for a three weeks' vacation.

•

IRVING YERGIN of the Warner home office special events department, left here yesterday for Buffalo.

•

SGT. THOM CONROY, formerly in theatre business in Hartford, Conn., has arrived overseas.

•

JACK MYERS of Hub Films, Boston, was a recent New Haven visitor.

Denies Rank Control

Dr. Alexander Galperson, visiting distribution representative of Two Cities Films, London, said here yesterday that his company is not controlled by the J. Arthur Rank interests of England, as indicated in the American trade press. Financing for Two Cities productions, under the direction of Major A. M. Sassoon, has come from private interests, Dr. Galperson stated.

Two Cities, however, is accorded studio space and distribution exclusively by Rank's companies.

30 Goldwyn Reissues Set for Argentine

Samuel Goldwyn's office here reports that 30 of his productions, ranging from "Bulldog Drummond" to "The Westerner," have been sold for reissue in the Argentine, to Jaime Cabouli.

The producer says that for the past three years there has been an extremely lively interest in reissues for South America. Henry R. Arias acted as agent in the current negotiations.

Zevin Sentencing Off to March 20

The sentencing of Isadore Zevin, former secretary to George E. Browne, convicted IATSE ex-president, who pleaded guilty to perjury in connection with the Government's probe of the whereabouts of $1,500,000 collected from IATSE members, was adjourned here yesterday by Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard until March 20. The long adjournment indicates that Zevin is preparing to be a star witness for the government at the forthcoming mail fraud trial in connection with the special two per cent wage tax assessed by Browne against IATSE members.

Meanwhile, Harry Hochstein, former Chicago official, will not face trial in Federal Court until Feb. 1, Judge Goddard decided yesterday.

The court adjourned until that date Hochstein's trial under the perjury true bill, but indications are that the case will be adjourned further, at least until a mail fraud indictment against six Capone gangsters is disposed of.

Atlanta 'Barker' Appears

ATLANTA, Jan. 24.—*The Barker*, organization publication of Variety Tent No. 21, has made its first appearance here under the editorship of James Gillespie and the associate editorship of Paul Jones, Linton Hoploins and Ernest Rogers. The paper will appear twice monthly.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
in Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG
and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St
Michele MORGAN
Jack HALEY
Frank SINATRA
"Higher and Higher"

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Red SKELTON
Eleanor POWELL
in M-G-M's
'I DOOD IT'
In Person
Earl Carroll's Vanities

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Para. Partners in Dallas Conference

Post-war problems and participation in the 4th War Loan and the March of Dimes drives were discussed at a meeting of Paramount theatre executives with theatre partners in Dallas late last week, Leonard H. Goldenson, vice-president in charge of theatre operations, disclosed here yesterday on his return from Dallas.

Attending the meeting were: R. B. Wilby and H. F. Kincey, Atlanta; E. V. Richards, New Orleans; Karl Hoblitzelle and R. J. O'Donnell, Dallas; Julius Gordon, Beaumont, Tex.; A. H. Blank and Ralph Branton, Des Moines; John Balaban, Chicago; Martin J. Mullin and Sam Pinanski, Boston, and from the home office theatre department, Goldenson, Leon D. Netter and Sam Dembow, Jr.

Dembow stopped over in Chicago on his return to New York and is expected here today. Netter will also return to the home office today.

O'Donnell, general manager of the Interstate Circuit of Texas; Jules J. Rubens, general manager of Publix-Great States Theatre, Chicago, and Hunter Perry, president of Dominion Theatres of Virginia, associated with Paramount, arrived in New York yesterday for conferences.

Top Showmen Will See 'Bernadette'

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing. The picture will start a regular run with a continuous performance policy tomorrow at the same theatre.

Exhibitors who were invited include Edward Alperson, Harry Brandt, Ted Schlanger, Walter Vincent, Walter Reade, Si Fabian, Gus Eyssell, John Nolan, Al Boyd, Frank W. Buhler, John Fitzgibbons, Joe Cooper, Maury White, I. J. Hoffman, Ralph Branton, Ed Fay, Vince McFall, J. Real Neth, Jules Rubens, George Lynch, Louis Schine, Nate Dipson, Tom Walsh, Nate Goldstein, Harry Zeitz, Milt Mooney, John Harris, "Rick" Ricketson, B. V. Sturdivant and Charles Skouras.

Among show world notables invited are Annabella, Phil Baker, Joan Fontaine, Brian Aherne, Laird Cregar, Conrad Nagel, Bryan Foy and Phil Silvers. Others, from outside the industry, include Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Aldrich, Commander and Mrs. Bernard Baruch, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. James Farley, Lady Hardwicke, Mrs. Frank Vanderlip, Major Herbert Bayard Swope, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred E. Smith, Major and Mrs. De Severskey.

Protests Argentine Film Tax Reduction

Norman H. Armour, United States ambassador to the Argentine, recently has made representations to the Argentine government vigorously protesting a new decree which grants Argentine exhibitors a reduction in theatre taxes corresponding to increased exhibition of Argentine films in their theatres, it was learned yesterday.

Ambassador Armour, it is understood, contended that the tax decree discriminates against theatres which use American films almost exclusively.

Review

"Rationing"

(*Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer*)

PRODUCER Orville O. Dull had a wide variety of material dealing with rationing from which to choose in assembling this M-G-M Wallace Beery-Marjorie Main comedy. In attempting to cram almost everything to which we have been subjected by rationing into "Rationing," he and director Willis Goldbeck have achieved no more than a mildly amusing film. It centers around a feud between Beery and Miss Main, and a romance between their respective children, Tommy Patten and Dorothy Morris.

The William R. Lipman-Grant Garrett-Harry Ruskin screenplay presents Beery as an easy-going small town general store proprietor and Miss Main as the stern postmistress and ration-board supervisor of the town. They have been feuding ever since a Beery youthful indiscretion during World War I, and Miss Main's position of authority becomes exceedingly irksome to him, especially when she prevents the marriage of his adopted son, who has enlisted, and her daughter. Through his efforts to abet the romance, Beery becomes involved with some unscrupulous "black market" meat racketeers. He covers himself with glory in uprooting them in a rousing fist fight after being appointed to share Miss Main's rationing supervision; wins out with Miss Main as well.

Beery and Miss Main deliver their customary performances with gusto. Miss Morris and Patten are appealing as the confused youngsters in love with each other. Among others in the competent cast are Donald Meek, Henry O'Neill, Gloria Dickson, Connie Gilchrist and Howard Freedman.

Running time, 93 mins. "G."* Release in February.

MILT LIVINGSTON

*"G" denotes general classification.

Postpone Incas and Jenkins Trust Suit

ATLANTA, Jan. 24.—Trial in the Federal Court here of the $218,000 damage suit filed by Fred Weis, operator of the Savannah Theatre, Savannah, against Incas and Jenkins and the eight majors, set to get underway here today has been postponed to Mar. 6. John I. Kelley, attorney for the plaintiff said that Weis is ill. Two previous postponements had been granted the defendants.

Weis alleges unfair practices by Incas and Jenkins which made it necessary for him to abandon a theatre building project in Savannah, among several other charges.

Freedman Reelected By Ontario Owners

TORONTO, Jan. 24. — Ben Freedman has been unanimously returned to office as president of the Independent Theatres Association of Ontario, affiliate of the National Council of Independents.

Henry Lester, Bonita, Toronto, was elected vice-president, replacing Barney Goldhar; Sam Strashin, Cameo, Toronto, succeeds Max Starkman as treasurer, and Harry Romberg was reelected secretary. The new executive board consists of Tom Walton, Bruce McLeod and Max Starkman. Garson Soloway will again act as public relations counsel.

Will Introduce Starlets

Samuel Goldwyn will hold a reception at the Hotel St. Regis today for Constance Dowling of Goldwyn's recently completed "Up in Arms" and Vera-Ellen, scheduled to go to Hollywood at the end of the run of the Broadway musical, "A Connecticut Yankee," in which she is currently featured.

$165,730,178 to Gov't from Taxes

(*Continued from page* 1)

records showed, ranged from a low of $11,109,477 in June to a high of $16,499,395 in October. The revenue by months, compared with 1942, follows:

	1943	1942
Jan.	$11,728,489	$11,355,639
Feb.	11,317,101	9,769,398
Mar.	11,874,676	10,592,455
Apr.	13,283,115	10,788,463
May	14,625,615	11,803,922
June	11,109,477	11,550,114
July	15,750,519	12,484,881
Aug.	16,178,306	12,436,304
Sept.	13,926,347	13,662,337
Oct.	16,499,395	14,694,997
Nov.	16,388,863	11,310,821
Dec.	13,048,274	15,922,909

The decline in collections in December apparently was heaviest outside the metropolitan centers, the special report for the Third New York (Broadway) District showing an increase in that area from $2,204,839 in November to $2,393,044 in December.

Chaplin Gains by Decision on Selznick

Judge Ferdinand Pecora in a recent New York Supreme Court decision held that both Vanguard Films, Inc. and David O. Selznick, Inc. are actually doing business in New York State and are not foreign to the state as claimed by David Selznick in his attempt to prevent Charles Chaplin from joining his two corporations in the accounting action filed against 20th Century-Fox and United Artists corporations in which Chaplin seeks recovery of about $1,000,000. Ruling in favor of Selznick would have meant that Chaplin would have to file his action against Selznick in California.

Indications are that Selznick will appeal the decision.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 24

BARRINGTON GAIN, director of General Film Distributors, Ltd., and Dr. Alexander Galperson, distributor representative of Two Cities Films, have arrived here from New York.

•

Lance Heath, assistant to Arch Reeves, Public Relations Committee secretary, left today for Washington where he will arrange for personal appearances of Brian Donlevy, Lucille Ball, Jinx Falkenberg, John Garfield, Walter Pidgeon, Red Skelton and Jose Iturbi at the President's Birthday celebration Jan. 28 and 29.

•

War Finance Committee chairman Henry Ginsberg announced Goldwyn studio purchases of $500,000 worth of bonds to start the second week of the 4th War Loan Drive.

•

A. Pam Blumenthal, producer of "Sports Parade" shorts for Warners, is at the studio conferring on next season's series. He expects to be here a month.

•

Paul N. Lazarus arrived here today to attend a three- or four-day series of conferences on new product plans at the United Artists studio.

•

Harry Sherman has confirmed the fact that negotiations are in progress for producing "The Life of Tom Mix" for International.

•

Angelus Pictures announced today a remake of "Mayerling" for United Artists release.

•

Samuel Bronston, Columbia production unit chief, arrived here today from the East.

•

Will Hays arrived here today for his annual midwinter visit.

•

Warners today gave Raoul Walsh a new directorial contract.

Cincinnati May Get IATSE Convention

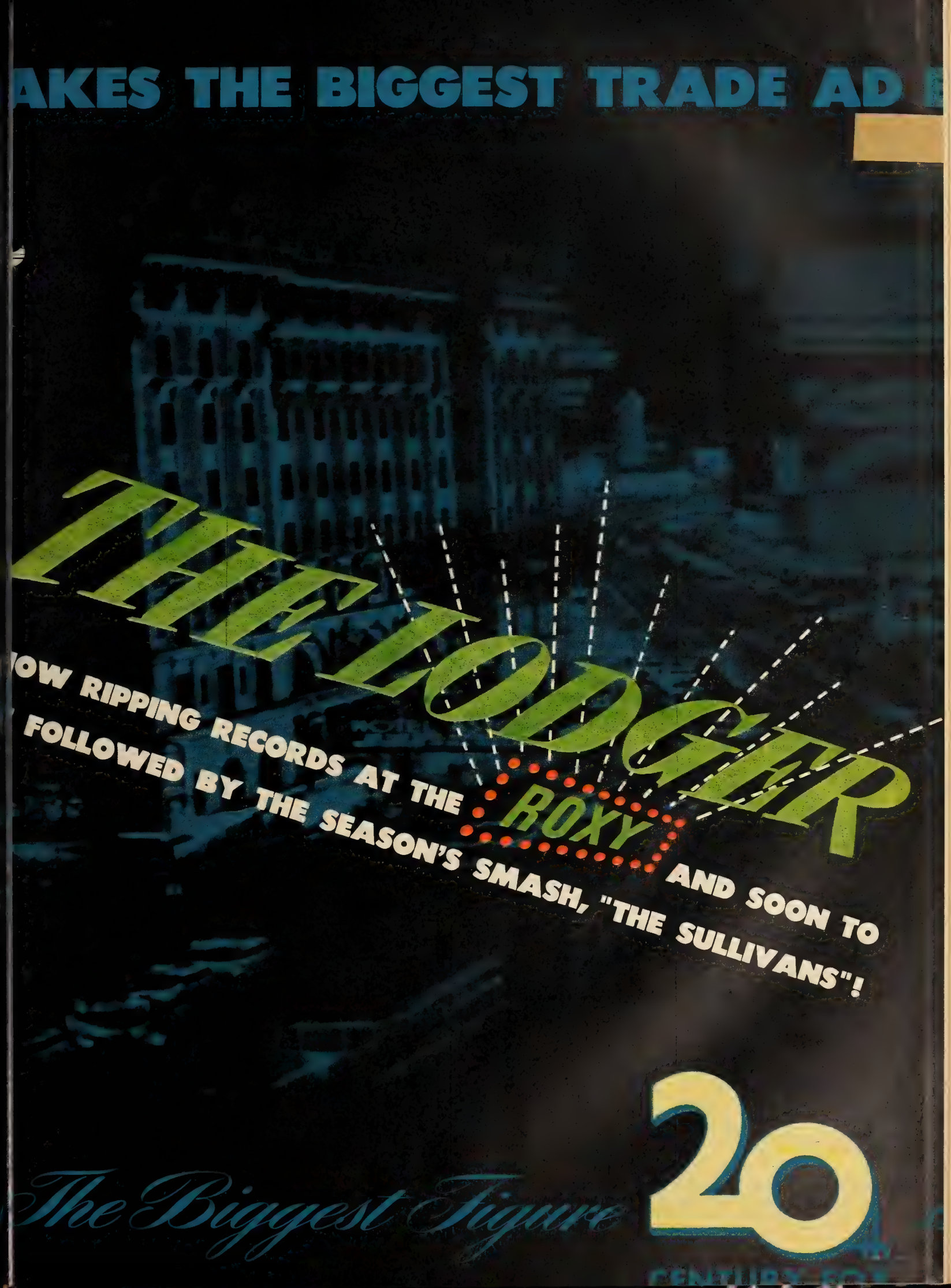
CINCINNATI, Jan. 24.—The semi-annual meeting of the executive board of the IATSE, a week-long conference at the Netherland Plaza Hotel here, opened today. It is expected that this city will be chosen for the annual IATSE convention scheduled for May or June. It has been customary for the locale of the board meeting to be used also for the convention.

The current agenda is expected to include discussion of the dispute in the Chicago local, where the union, major circuits and Allied States are being sued by members for alleged conspiracy in blocking wage rises.

MOT Host to 20th Group

The March of Time was host last night to the 20th-Fox foreign department in the Cloud Room of the Chrysler Bldg. Murray Silverstone headed the Fox contingent. Roy Larson, Richard de Rochemont and John Wood were in charge of the MOT group.


VER...TO SHOW YOU HOW 20TH
JANE EYRE
NEXT ATTRACTION AT THE MUSIC HALL WHERE
IT WILL RUN ON AND ON AND ON!
the Motion Picture Industry


AKES THE BIGGEST TRADE AD
THE LODGER
OW RIPPING RECORDS AT THE ROXY AND SOON TO
FOLLOWED BY THE SEASON'S SMASH, "THE SULLIVANS"!
The Biggest Figure
20

Tax Council Of Exhibitors Due Next Week

(Continued from page 1)

unaffiliated exhibitor organizations and affiliated theatres—to the national tax defense board, it was reliably reported here yesterday. The board's province will be restricted almost entirely to Federal admission taxation, rather than state or local tax problems, it was stated.

Disclosure of Allied leaders' intention of asking the organization's board for ratification in Chicago comes in a statement "addressed to all exhibitors regardless of membership or non-membership in any association," as received here yesterday from Allied headquarters in Washington.

Sounding the warning that "the war goes on, expenditures increase and the public debt mounts," Allied tells exhibitors that "The future holds the prospect for tax bills and more tax bills."

"If exhibitors are not to become the whipping boys of the revenue raisers, they will have to strengthen as many of the sources of weakness that lie within their power," Allied's statement said, adding: "At the very minimum, the following must be done:

By individual exhibitors:

"Join and support the exhibitor association in your territory; volunteer for service on the legislative committees to be established by the associations; resolve to submerge your own views and, if need be, your identity in an all-out effort to protect the interests of the exhibitors as a whole."

By regional associations:

"Establish a committee of alert, intelligent exhibitors in each Congressional district to cultivate friendly relations with the Congressman of that district and acquaint him with the important public service rendered by and the needs and aspirations of motion picture theatres; establish similar friendly relations with the Senators of each State; train members in times of crises, and on signal from their association, to write intelligent informative letters to their Congressmen and Senators, explaining just how proposed taxes will affect their business; affiliate with a national association, clear all national legislative action through it, and be ever ready to respond to its appeals for speedy, effective action."

By national associations:

"Keep the regional associations advised of all developments on the legislative front; prepare and submit necessary information, statistics and arguments to legislative committees.

Cooperate with all elements in the business, through a national conference committee or otherwise, in an effort to avoid the taking of inconsistent and conflicting positions in matters of taxation."

Flothow Produced 'Case'

Producer of Columbia's "The Crime Doctor's Strangest Case," reviewed in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 13, was Rudolph C. Flothow.

Legion Tieup Aims to Sell Million War Bonds

(Continued from page 1)

motion from the ranks has been designed for those who sell more than one bond.

At the conclusion of the campaign a special "American Legion Night" is being recommended for each city or town utilizing the plan, as a means of presenting final citations to the children. These nights will be "dressed up" with American Legion color guards, bugle and drum corps, speakers and final bond rallies.

M-G-M Branches Sell Their Employes 100%

Every employe in the 33 M-G-M branch offices throughout the country has purchased an extra war bond for the 4th War Loan Drive. The last exchange to report full representation came through before the campaign officially concluded its first week, the company announced here yesterday.

Wisconsin Premieres Of Six Different Types

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 24.—Six different types of bond premieres are being held in Wisconsin's 4th War Loan Drive, according to Harold Fitzgerald, state chairman. Besides the regular bond premieres there will be stage, industrial, union, auction, fraternal and school premieres.

An all-soldier show, "It's the McCoy," has been booked into 15 towns, and four theatres are sell-outs. The "Bond Seat" board for the drive by Milwaukee theatres will be turned over to the city for patriotic use for the duration of the war. The name of the square has been changed from "Court of Honor" to "Victory Square."

Massachusetts "Free Movie Day" Feb. 8th

BOSTON, Jan. 24.—Samuel Pinanski, Massachusetts state chairman, has designated Feb. 8 as "Free Movie Day" in the state. "With all theatres holding 'Free Movie Day' on this one day and date," Pinanski said, "it will get greater mass appeal than if individual towns select individual dates."

Gen. Marshall Names Bond Liaison Staff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Following General George C. Marshall's directive to all Army Service Commands in the United States for cooperation in the 4th War Loan Drive, the War Department has announced a list of nine officers to act as liaisons for the industry's "Bond Battalions" that are now touring the country.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war and campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

LEE SILLS, Kingsland Theatre, Louis.
BILLY YARBROUGH, Pal Theatre, Lyons, Ga.
A. R. CLAUSEN, New Adler Theatre, Marshfield, Wis.
MELVIN GAITSKILL, Paris Theatre, Paris, Ky.
CARL H. SIEGEL, RKO Midway Theatre, Forest Hills, N. Y.
PAUL HUDGINS, Rio Theatre, Corsicana, Tex.
LLOYD C. DENTON, Rex Theatre, Caliente, Nev.
WILLIAM W. WARD, Congress Theatre, Washington.
KENNETH D. BRUCE, Granada Theatre, Kansas City.
HERMAN KOPF, Waller Theatre, Laurel, Del.

Industry and Nation Launch 'Dimes' Drive

(Continued from page 1)

Gorin, Mary Small, Dudley Digges, Kenny Baker, John Boles, Virginia Field, Arleen Whalen, Doris Nolan, Arlene Francis, Rise Stevens, Jerry Lester, Benny Baker, Allan Jones, Paul Robeson, Dick Foran, Victor Jory and "Snow White."

Also participating were the Army, Army band, American Women's Voluntary Service, the band of McGarity Post, American Legion and the National Security Women's Corp.

The rally was opened by Edward C. Dowden. The singing of the 'Star Spangled Banner" by Allan Jones, accompanied by the "Winged Victory" chorus and the Army band, followed. Jerry Lester presented the stars, all of whom made appeals for the "Dimes." The motion picture committee also consisted of Ernest Emerling, publicity chairman; Dowden, Sidney Kain, Sam Coolick, Jerry Sager, Sol Handwerger and Paula Gould.

Canada Exhibitors Asked to Meet Gov't

(Continued from page 1)

W. L. M. King in addition to chairman Gordon.

The Ottawa meeting is scheduled to take place one week after film exchange general managers and directors of the Ontario Council, the Provincial branch of the Independent Exhibitors of Canada, are to confer at Toronto in a move for cooperation, based on a newly-adopted policy of the Ontario independents pointing toward trade amity.

Representatives invited to the conference with Dominion officials in the capital include president A. J. Mason, Springhill, N. S.; G. O. Auclair, for Quebec; Ben Freedman and Henry Falk, Toronto; H. Shulman, Winnipeg; W. P. Mahon, Prince Albert, Sask.; H. G. Stevenson, LaCombe, Alta.; Robert McTavish, Vancouver, and Malcolm Walker of Halifax.

400 Keys Book 'Bell Tolls' to March 1

With a minimum of 85 additional engagements of Paramount's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" slated to open next month, more than 400 theatres in the United States will have played the picture at advanced admissions up to March 1, and additional bookings are being set. Charles M. Reagan, assistant general sales manager, announced here Friday. All major circuits have played or are now playing the film. Latest is Fox West Coast.

With "FWTBT" bowing out of the Rivoli here today, first theatres in the metropolitan area to play the picture are the Strand in Brooklyn and the Paramount in Newark.

Licensing Resurvey Ordered in Canada

(Continued from page 1)

survey of the situation after a two-day hearing of proposals and briefs.

In the meantime royalty schedules against theatre owners and others for this year are completely tied up. This is what happened some years ago when the Canadian Copyright Act was overhauled and the Copyright Appeal Board set up in an effort to bring order out of chaos.

The feeling in film trade circles here is that the multiplicity of performing right demands now has brought conditions which react to the benefit of theatre owners without the latter's entering a demand for a new deal.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.

NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING

OF

PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

THURS. JAN 27th, at 11:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M.

RKO PROJECTION ROOM

630 Ninth Ave., New York, N. Y.

DO NOT REMOVE

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 18 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1944 TEN CENTS

$3,000,000 'Dimes' Goal Is in Sight

Collections Far Ahead Of Last Year

The industry's executive committee of the 1914 "March of Dimes" drive has announced that the $3,000,000 theatre collection "is within easy view."

The Loew circuit's total stands at $232,067 for the first five days, against $179,327 last year. Loew's Orpheum, Boston, is leading with $7,479. Skouras Theatres in metropolitan New York are collecting 65 to 90 per cent more, while many Brandt Theatres are averaging 100 per cent more. RKO, Century, Randforce, Fabian, Interboro and smaller circuits and independents all report a rise in collections of from 50 to 75 per cent.

Robert J. O'Donnell, state chairman

(*Continued on page 16*)

Industry Leaders at Bernadette' Preview

Top flight industry names were among the guests at last night's invitational preview of 20th Century-Fox's "The Song of Bernadette," at the Rivoli Theatre here.

Among those invited to this first public exhibition of the film were: Ben Kalmenson, Warners; C. C. Moskowitz, W. F. Rodgers, David Bernstein, Howard Dietz, M-G-M; Adolph Zukor, Neil Agnew, Sam

(*Continued on page 4*)

Horwits Heads 'U' Publicity Promotions

John Joseph, Universal's national advertising-publicity director with headquarters in Hollywood, yesterday announced, through the home office, a series of promotions and additions to the Eastern publicity and promotional departments.

Al Horwits has been elevated to publicity manager here, under Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director; added to the field forces under the supervision of Hank Linet, executive Assistant to Bergman, are Al Selig, veteran in the field who has been making his headquarters in Washington, and Harry McDonald, former theatre executive, who has been named exploitation representative for New England; in the advertising unit of the home office

(*Continued on page 4*)

Pledge Bond Break In Every Newsreel For 4th War Loan

A pledge to produce a war-bond subject in each newsreel issue through the close of the 4th War Loan Drive on Feb. 15 was given by representatives of all the newsreel companies at a luncheon yesterday in the St. Moritz Hotel here. Charles P. Skouras, national industry campaign chairman, was the host.

The newsreel subjects will be created in cooperation with the Treasury Department and the industry committee. Ted Gamble, chairman of the Treasury's war finance division, was guest of honor at the luncheon.

Others in attendance were: F. H.

(*Continued on page 16*)

4 New Men on East Pa. Allied Board

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 25.—David Barrist, Harry Fried, Norman Lewis and Henry Sork were elected to three-year terms as new members of the board of governors of Eastern Pennsylvania Allied at its sixth annual meeting here today.

Abram F. Myers, general counsel of

(*Continued on page 4*)

Loew's Will Buy 10 Million in Bonds

Loew's, Inc., will purchase $10,000,000,000 in 4th War Loan securities, David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer of the company, disclosed here yesterday. This amount is being allocated among Loew theatres and film exchanges throughout the country.

MPTOA Favors Theatre Tax Unity

The MPTOA approves the formation of a national exhibitor council for unified action on taxation and is polling members of its board of directors now on the designation of representation to such a council in the event that plans for its formation are consummated, Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, informed MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday.

"MPTOA always has favored a national tax committee," Kuykendall said, "and believes such a body to be more necessary now than ever before. MPTOA," he added, "will insist upon the participation of all exhibitor units regardless of their affiliations."

"The Song of Bernadette"

An Appraisal and Observations

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Jan. 25

IN its young career, this industry has contributed to the world it serves and to its own record of accomplishment many pictures of note and distinction. Enough have been produced through the years to make the indifferent bearable.

The achievements have been sufficient in number and sufficiently varied in theme to brush aside the cynics and to give fitting answer to the scoffers who steadfastly maintain this is a catch-penny business deserving of no serious consideration.

Good public relations are compounded of good conduct. Good conduct may manifest itself in a number of ways; there is, for instance, the fine record of the industry in these times of war. But best of all is good conduct the more quickly and the more permanently established by good motion pictures. It must follow that, when the industry fulfills its function of making as many worthwhile films as it possibly can, its fibres grow stronger. Its stride is the more forthright. Its eyes are clear and it acquires the strength which develops from the satisfaction of a job well done.

Every motion picture of genuine merit is an additional asset which serves to move toward this final objective. It can be a film which clarifies the issues of the war. It can be a film with no purpose except the

(*Continued on page 2*)

New Consent Decree Draft Goes to Clark

May Not Call Exhibitors Until Next Week

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Another draft of the distributors' proposals for revision of the consent decree was laid before Assistant Attorney-General Tom C. Clark today by representatives of the five companies.

Unlike last week when a three and one-half hour conference was held, today's meeting was comparatively brief and, according to Clark, no definite results were attained.

Refusing to divulge the contents of the new revision until he has had an opportunity to study it, Clark said the next step will be to decide upon the procedure to be followed from now on, and that it probably would take

(*Continued on page 4*)

Jack Partington of Fanchon-Marco Dies

John Allan Partington, 54, one of the operating heads of the Roxy Theatre in New York and vice-president and general manager of Fanchon and Marco, and Fanchon and Marco Stage Shows, Inc., died yesterday at his home here. Death was caused by a heart attack.

A native of the Isle of Man, England, Partington spent his early days in San Francisco where he was in exhibition. He is said to have orig-

(*Continued on page 16*)

Exhibitors Granted Priority on Tubes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Exhibitors may use an AA-2 priority rating without formal application, to secure electronic parts including tubes, it was announced here today by John Eberson, consultant to the amusement section of the Office of Civilian Requirements.

Eberson announced last week that the rating would be available to exhibitors for this purpose, but that formal application to use it would be required pending further action by the War Production Board, which now has been taken. Henceforth, special application to the OCR for tubes is required only of users whose expenditures for maintenance, repairs and operating materials are greater than permitted under Order CMP-5.

Personal Mention

LEON D. NETTER, Paramount theatre executive, has returned from Dallas.

•

OSCAR A. MORGAN, general sales manager of Paramount short subjects, will leave today for Lake Placid to officiate at the Eastern ice skating championships of the American Skating Association.

•

TONY SUDEKUM, president of Crescent Amusement Co., has been made an executive board member of the Nashville area council, Boy Scouts of America.

•

JAMES COSTON, Chicago Warner circuit zone manager, and I. J. HOFFMAN, New Haven manager, will return to their respective headquarters today.

•

S. S. HOREN, 20th-Fox managing director for the Argentine, returned last week to his headquarters in Buenos Aires.

•

LT. RICHARD LIGHTMAN, son of M. A. LIGHTMAN, head of Malco Theatres, Memphis, is home on a 10-day furlough.

•

AL SHERMAN of the Royal Norwegian Information Service is confined to the Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Washington.

•

S. BARRET MCCORMICK, RKO director of advertising and publicity, is expected from New Orleans and the Coast today.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, M-G-M exchange operations head, is confined to his home by illness.

•

BERNARD KAMBER of United Artists publicity department is in Hartford, Conn., for the day.

•

JOSEPH PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, is expected to leave for the Coast on Sunday.

•

JAMES CAREY, manager of the Majestic, Evansville, Ind., has entered the service.

•

RALPH G. BRANTON, Tri-States Theates executive, and MRS. BRANTON, are in New York.

•

H. M. BESSEY, vice-president of Altec Service, has returned to New York from a southern business trip.

•

HARRY THOMAS, Eastern district manager for Monogram, has left on a tour of exchanges.

•

G. L. CARRINGTON, president of Altec Service, has arrived in New York from the Coast.

•

JACK BROWELL, manager of the Clearfield, Philadelphia, entered the Army this week.

•

I. J. SCHMERTZ, 20th-Fox Cleveland branch manager, is in New York.

"The Song of Bernadette"

An Appraisal and Observations

By RED KANN

(*Continued from page 1*)

purpose of bringing entertainment and relief from care to the millions who see it. Or it can be a motion picture like "The Song of Bernadette" which had its invitational showing at the Rivoli in New York tonight.

It is not the purpose to review that film. This has been done. It has been told already what a distinguished and emotionally moving drama has been welded out of the best-selling novel of the same title by Franz Werfel; how faithful the 20th Century-Fox studios have been to the dramatic facets of the book and how subject matter of great delicacy and of essential significance to a tremendous segment of the American and the international public has been observed with respect and complete fidelity.

"The Song of Bernadette" was not a simple picture to make. Its documented history of the obscure peasant girl of Lourdes who saw The Lady and who remained steadfast through scoffings and derisions heaped upon her by church and state alike is engrossing and fascinating. It consolidates into drama so touching and so complete that it well nigh overwhelms before the unshakable conviction of her faith is accepted by those very ones who were the unbelievers.

■

The Miracle of Lourdes, of course, is internationally famous. To that shrine have come many of the halt, the maimed and the ill of the entire civilized world. Its healings have been attested to by men of science who, by the record, have been compelled to admit results if they cannot explain them within the precise boundaries of their various sciences.

The story of how the shrine came to be is the story of this film. It is told in terms of human beings, how they reacted and how they thought. That makes it a pageant of human emotions magnificently unfolded and impressively portrayed.

■

There will be inevitable questions about a film of this character. Showmen will want to know something beyond its spiritual and emotional lift. As practical business men, they will want to know if it is possible to combine this kind of subject matter with commercial drawing power. It is something about which they are entitled to guidance.

It is our opinion, therefore, that "The Song of Bernadette," reaching the people in times of stress when religion takes on additional impress, will serve the double function of stimulating the public mind and providing it with an attraction immeasurably apart from the average. If this is so, any uncertainties about commercial values are answered at once.

■

However, obligations also impose themselves upon the exhibitor. He cannot submit this film to the 24-sheeting which is allowable and workable with the rank and file of even big attractions. He will offend good taste and the sensibilities of his patronage if he varies from the dignified and the reserved in his treatment. He would be entirely justified in using large newspaper space provided his copy continues to recognize what he is selling.

He cannot employ the accepted run of normal routines. By every odd, he must recognize the dignities of the subject as well as its delicacies and deport his merchandising conduct in full deference to both of these equations. This is the only fair method for the film and for his theatre.

Gross to RKO as Executive Producer

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—Jack Gross, executive producer with Universal, will soon join RKO-Radio in the same capacity. He will also be assistant to company vice-president Charles W. Koerner.

Gross, one time division manager of RKO Theatres, has been associated with film theatricals for 20 years. He joined Universal in 1940.

"Adventure" Screening

RKO-Radio's "Passport to Adventure," featuring Elsa Lanchester, Gordon Oliver and Leonore Albert, will be trade shown in New York and Los Angeles tomorrow, according to an announcement here by Ned E. Depinet.

Joe Kaufman Resigns

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—Joe Kaufman resigned today as head booker of Balaban and Katz.

6 Warner Directors Up for Reelection

Harry, Jack and Albert Warner and Joseph Bernhard, Waddill Catchings and Robert W. Perkins have been nominated by Warner Bros.' board of directors for reelection by stockholders to another term of two years on the board. Annual stockholders' meeting is scheduled for Feb. 15 in Wilmington.

The only other business on the agenda for stockholders as of now is a vote to amend the company's certificate of incorporation to eliminate all reference to preferred stock inasmuch as all preferred was redeemed and retired on Aug. 31, 1943.

Directors whose terms do not expire for another year are: Samuel Carlisle, Stanleigh P. Friedman, Charles Guggenheimer, Joseph Hazen and Morris Wolf.

Holdings Revealed

In a proxy statement to stockholders, Warner Bros. reveals that board members held the following company securities as of Dec. 1, 1943: Joseph Bernhard, 6,500 shares of common stock, worth about $84,500 at the current market price of about $13 per share; Robert W. Perkins, 500 shares, $6,500; Albert Warner, 231,550 shares, $3,010,150; Harry Warner, 144,060 shares, $1,872,780; Jack Warner, 200,000 shares, $2,600,000, plus $200,000 of four per cent serial debentures; Samuel Carlisle, 300 shares, $3,900; Stanleigh Friedman, 600 shares, $7,800; Joseph Hazen, 500 shares, $6,500, and Morris Wolf, 616½ shares, $8,015. Directors Waddill Catchings and Charles Guggenheimer do not own any Warner common stock.

After deducting shares held in the corporation's treasury, there are outstanding 3,701,090 shares of Warner common stock, valued at approximately $48,114,170 on the basis of the current market price of about $13 per share; of this, $7,600,145 is held by nine directors, and of that amount, Harry, Jack and Albert Warner together hold $7,482,930.

In addition, members of the Warner family hold $1,700,000 of the corporation's $8,000,000 four per cent serial debentures, which were sold last year also to Massachusetts, New England, State and Penn life insurance companies, and to Harvard College and the Warner Club, Inc., employes' organization, according to figures furnished stockholders.

Goetz and Rathvon Confer on RKO Deal

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—William Goetz, president of International Pictures, which signed a distribution deal with RKO last week will leave here tomorrow for New York to confer with N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president on further details of the deal. Goetz is also expected to negotiate for several Broadway plays and to sign talent for his company.

It is announced that David Lewis will produce "It's a Pleasure," Technicolor musical starring Sonja Henie, one of the Goetz's-Leo Spitz' initial four International pictures.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.



BLAME IT ON "A GUY NAMED JOE"

Last week in the trade magazines we announced that "Song of Russia" would have its World Premiere at the Capitol, N. Y., January 27th, following 5 weeks of "A Guy Named Joe."

At press time, yielding to public demand, we had to postpone "Song of Russia" and hold "A Guy Named Joe" for a sixth week! Now it's going into a 7th week and still terrific!

It's a good lesson for us! We keep telling ***you*** to hold extra time wide open for the great M-G-M hits in our new group "Vitamin 12." Is our face red!

M-G-M presents Spencer Tracy • Irene Dunne in Victor Fleming's Production of "A Guy Named Joe" with Van Johnson • Ward Bond • James Gleason • Lionel Barrymore • Barry Nelson • Esther Williams • Screen Play by Dalton Trumbo • Adaptation by Frederick Hazlitt Brennan • Directed by Victor Fleming • Produced by Everett Riskin

Industry Leaders at 'Bernadette' Preview

(*Continued from page 1*)

Dembow, Leonard Goldenson, Paramount; Edward Raftery and Carl Leserman, United Artists; Jack Cohn, Abe Montague, Columbia; Ned Depinet, N. Peter Rathvon, Ed Alperson, RKO.

Others invited were Postmaster General Frank Walker, Martin Quigley, Jack Alicoate and George Skouras.

From 20th-Fox, the following, among others, were invited: Spyros P. Skouras, Wendell L. Willkie, Tom Connors, Murray Silverstone, Hal Horne, W. C. Michel, Dan Michalove, Larry Kent and William C. Kupper.

In addition to the guests listed in yesterday's issue of MOTION PICTURE DAILY, the following 20th-Fox sales executives from the field were on hand:

Sidney Samson, Canada; I. J. Schmertz, Cleveland; Ira H. Cohn, Buffalo; C. E. Peppiatt, Washington, D. C.; Clay V. Hake, Pittsburgh; Ben A. Simon, New Haven; Harry G. Ballance, Atlanta; Edward X. Callahan, Boston; James J. Grady, Cincinnati; Herman R. Beiersdorf, Chicago; Moe A. Levy, Minneapolis; Ward E. Scott, Kansas City, Mo.

Broadcast Is Feature

A radio broadcast was a feature of the event, three local stations being linked together in an inter-city tie-up which reached listeners in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The microphone was set up in the theatre lobby, and Herb Sheldon officiated as master of ceremonies during a broadcast between 9 and 9:15 over WOV, WINS and WNEW.

Also, recordings were made of comments by several of the notables of screen, stage and press who were present, following the screening. These will be broadcast over the same three stations this morning, coinciding with the Eastern public premiere of the film.

Hollywood Launches New Academy Foundation Today

By RED KANN

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—The Academy Foundation, described as a non-profit educational institution "concerned with cultural and technological advancements of motion pictures" and sponsored by a number of Hollywood's notables, will be incorporated tomorrow in Sacramento.

Formal word of the launching was made today by Loyd Wright, attorney, who said: "The Academy Foundation will operate as an autonomous institution and will be completely separate from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, with a different government body. The Foundation will be solely concerned with educational and sociological work whereas the Academy has such long established functions as awards for outstanding acting, directing, writing, producing and other accomplishments as well as its technical research council and the publication of its player's directory."

Academy Will Cooperate

In some directions, however, the Academy will cooperate with the Academy Foundation. The latter's ambition is to establish its own building, containing an historical library and research headquarters. Among the principal goals, Wright listed these eight:

(1) To promote study of the importance of motion pictures in the life of the public.

(2) To promote better understanding between nations and peoples of the world through the medium of motion pictures.

(3) To create a centralized film research library where books, pamphlets, periodicals, scripts and films would be available for students of the art and techniques of the industry and where the public could study original source material relating to the historical development of motion pictures.

(4) To establish graduate scholarships for research study, to be offered university graduates who wish to do extended research in the field of motion pictures.

(5) To conduct a continuing series of research studies and publish reports of contemporary interest to the industry and the public.

(6) To provide showings of films not available to the public in regular theatres, such as war reporting and some documentary subjects.

(7) To sponsor lectures, forums and concerts as a contribution to intellectual life.

(8) To publish reprints and monographs on motion picture art and a periodical for distribution to schools, libraries and the public at large.

Aside from declaring an avowed intention of entering the publishing field, in addition to its players' directory, the Foundation's plans provide a definite stipulation that it "may acquire property by gift, bequest or otherwise and that objects and purposes of the Foundation are non-political."

Sponsors

Among sponsors named by Wright are Y. Frank Freeman, Edgar J. Mannix, and Walter Wanger on the producer side; Cary Grant and Donald Crisp, actors; James Hilton and Mary McCall, Jr., writers; and Howard Hawks, director.

The announced agenda carries no intimation as to methods by which the Foundation proposes to finance its inaugural and operations.

A study of the proposed agenda indicates to those familiar with functions of the Museum of Modern Art in New York that the Foundation intends fashioning part of its activities in channels now pursued by this museum founded by John Hay Whitney.

Horwits Heads 'U' Promotional Dep't

(*Continued from page 1*)

Milton Silver has been named chief of the copy department and Harold Gutman has been appointed trade advertising art director. Horwitz will also supervise radio activities with David Carter, serving as special representative.

Due to extended promotional activities in the field with national publicity sources, Universal's publicity department recently added Harry Keller, former public relations counsel and Marie Slate, former publicity director of USO Camp Shows, Inc. Also included in the Eastern publicity roster now are Marion Orford, contacting fan magazines; Peggy Mahoney, contacting New York newspapers; E. J. Eustace, special feature writer; Charles Simonelli, advertising tie-up contact and Robert Wile, trade paper contact.

Horwits for the past 14 months has been head of the "U" contacting department. He was for many years sports editor of the *Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger* and contributed articles to national magazines, including the *Saturday Evening Post*. He is a former president of the Baseball Writers Association.

4 New Men on East Pa. Allied Board

(*Continued from page 1*)

National Allied, led a discussion on amusement taxes and the consent decree, but no resolution was passed.

Sidney E. Samuelson was reelected general manager. Other officers chosen were: Ben Fetel, treasurer; E. B. Gregory, secretary; Harry Chertcoff, national director, and Joseph Conway, chairman of the finance committee. George L. Ickes, Melville Coff and Thomas Lazarick were named alternates to the board of governors for one year; and Ickes and Morris Wax, alternates to the national director.

Erving Dollinger and H. H. Lowenstein of New Jersey Allied attended the meeting, as did Maxwell Alderman of New Haven. Jack Greenberg presided. About 125 theatres were represented.

Tonight Myers addressed a dinner of independent exhibitors at the Hotel Warwick.

Tomorrow the Eastern regional meeting of Allied directors will be held at the Warwick, with Dollinger presiding and reporting, it is expected, on results of the recent conference with William F. Rodgers on M-G-M sales policies.

Shea Circuit Men Feted by Grainger

Edmund C. Grainger, president of the Shea circuit, was host at a luncheon held here yesterday at the Hotel Astor, at which he introduced managers of the circuit's six largest theatres to divisional managers and their assistants. Those who attended, including non-company guests, were:

J. Walsh, E. Hiehle, John Woodward, R. W. Rhodes, J. Vance Minton, E. J. Fahey, E. W. Aaron, L. Weinberg, V. Borrelli, Hugh Owen, H. Lorber, Frank Drumm, L. Schlaifer, A. W. Smith, C. Hill, Ed. McEvoy, Harry Gold, P. Dow, J. Wrege, Fred Meyers, F. J. A. McCarthy, J. Lapidus, M. Dolid, Bert Sanford, B. Sholtz, M. Morey, G. Goett, A. J. Kearney, J. Shea and W. Barry.

Canada Sends 6 Shorts

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25. — The National Film Board of Canada recently screened six short subjects made by the Canadian Government, at the Department of the Interior auditorium. The subjects are: "Up From the Ranks," "Thirteen Platoon," "Sicily, Key to Victory," "The Labor Front," "Train Busters" and "Dollar Dance."

Baehr Buys 2, Ends Berger Competition

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 25.—E. J. Baehr of Baehr Bros. Theatres reports the purchase of two theatres from Berger Amusement Co., bringing the Baehr string to 14. The acquisitions are the Paramount at Brainerd, and the Chief at Bemidji, each about 800 seats. In both towns Berger and Baehr had been in competition.

The circuit includes theatres also in Alexandria, Breckenridge, Park Rapids, Thief River Falls, International Falls and Ely, Minn., and Wahpeton, N. D.

A. E. Johnstone, 83, Was Film Pioneer

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Jan. 25.—Arthur E. Johnstone, 83, musician and composer, credited with being one of the first to make a motion picture by artificial light, for old Biograph, died this week in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Johnstone, born in London, also pioneered with the late Thomas Edison in making music records for phonographs. He was also a photographer. A son, Jack Johnstone, executive of Benton & Bowles, New York advertising firm, survives.

Van Nuys, Kilgore Chairman, Is Dead

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The sudden death early yesterday of Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana leaves vacant the chairmanship of the Senate judiciary committee which has pending, among other legislation, the Kilgore Bill for divorcement of distribution and exhibition.

Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada, now chairman of the District of Columbia committee, is in line for the chieftanship of the judiciary group. Both he and the late Van Nuys entered the Senate in 1933 and were named to the judiciary at the same time.

"25-30" Operators To Honor Berkowitz

The 25-30 Club, composed of New York projectionists who have been that many years in the business, will give a testimonial dinner Friday night for their president, Mike Berkowitz, at the Grand Street Boys Club here.

Berkowitz will be installed in office, along with Morris J. Rotker, vice-president; Henry Weinberger, financial secretary; M. I. Klapholz, secretary; Michael Polito, sergeant-at-arms and Joseph Abrams, Robert Sanders and Joseph Fitterman, trustees.

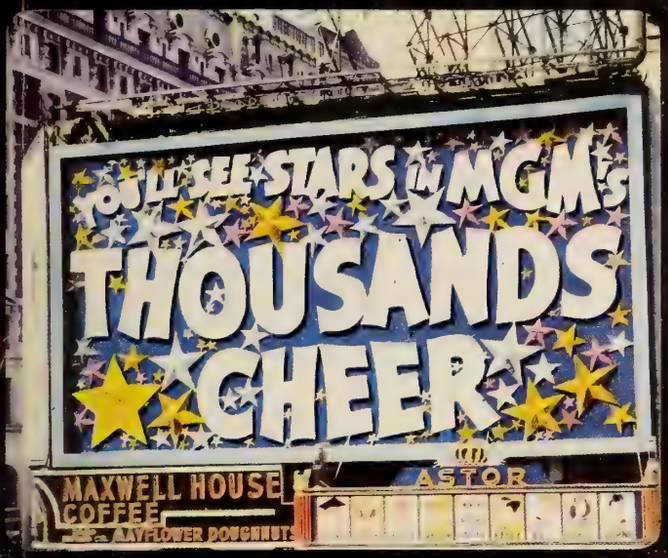
New Consent Decree Draft Goes to Clark

(*Continued from page 1*)

the form of meetings with the exhibitor representatives.

Since Clark said it would probably take several days to go over the proposals carefully, it is not expected that any of the exhibitor groups will be called in before next week.

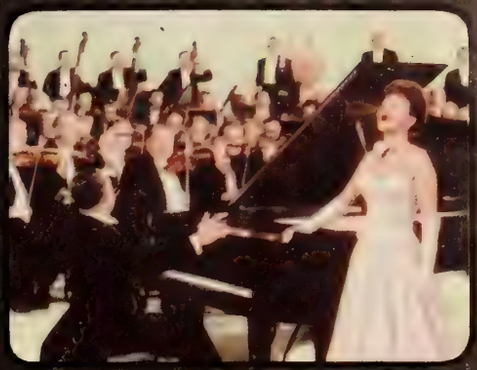
Accompanying the revised decree to Washington were J. R. Rubin of Loew's; Joseph Hazen, Warner Bros.; John F. Caskey, 20th Century-Fox; Ralston Irvine, RKO, and Austin C. Keough, Paramount.



"THOUSANDS CHEER" the 10-week Astor, N. Y. hit is already a nationwide box-office joy. Advertised to America in a giant campaign including M-G-M's one and only regular radio program. Here are a few enlargements of Technicolor frame clips from the film itself. Just a sample of M-G-M's Show of Shows!



Virginia O'Brien, red-hot frozen-face



The voice of an angel—Kathryn Grayson



No blues in Ben Blue



Judy Garland—"The Joint Is Really Jumpin'



Kathryn Grayson, Gene Kelly and love story



Mickey Rooney keeps things popping



The camp show—all for the boys in khaki



Roar with Red Skelton



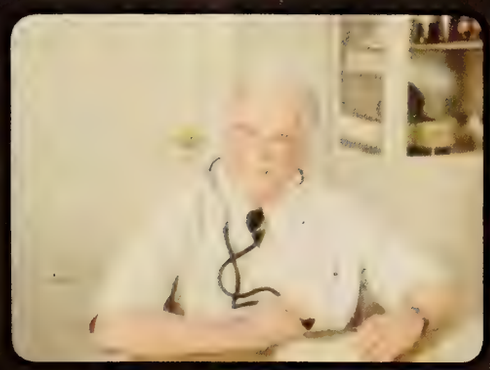
M-G-M's 120-piece Symphony Orchestra



Lucille Ball—of fire!



They're crazy about Maisie—it's Ann Sothern



"Be Frank, Dr. Morgan"—and he was

STARIFFIC IN TECHNICOLOR

M-G-M's

"THOUSANDS CHEER"

30 STARS! 3 BANDS!

Original Screen Play by Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins based on their story "Private Miss Jones."

Directed by GEORGE SIDNEY

Produced by JOSEPH PASTERNAK

SEE OTHER SIDE AND THERE'S MORE HERE TOO


TECHNICOLOR
Thousands Cheer
M-G-M
FRANK MORGAN
ANN SOTHERN
RED SKELTON
JUDY GARLAND
LUCILLE BALL
MICKEY ROONEY
JOHN BOLES
MARY ASTOR
BENNY CARTER AND HIS BAND
BOB CROSBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA
LENA HORNE
KAY KYSER AND HIS ORCHESTRA
ELEANOR POWELL
JOSE ITURBI
VIRGINIA O'BRIEN
JOHN CONTE
GLORIA DEHAVEN
DICK SIMMONS
MARSHA HUNT
MARILYN MAXWELL
DONNA REED
FRANK JENKS
MARGARET O'BRIEN
KATHRYN GRAYSON
GENE KELLY



Sizzling swing—Benny Carter and Band



Eleanor Powell—tantalizing taps



Jose Iturbi—famed musician, now screen star



Bob Crosby and Bob Cats



Lena Horne—of plenty



Mary Astor—and styles by Irene



Loper, Barratt and South American beauties



John Boles—every inch a colonel



Starrifically yours, Margaret O'Brien



Marsha Hunt—a joyful eyeful



M-G-M's GREATEST GROUP "VITAMIN 12"

Pep! Profits! Pleasure! LOOK:

"THOUSANDS CHEER"
Stariffic in Technicolor

★

"MADAME CURIE"
Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon

★

"A GUY NAMED JOE"
Spencer Tracy, Irene Dunne

★

"THE HEAVENLY BODY"
William Powell, Hedy Lamarr

★

"CRY 'HAVOC'"
Margaret Sullavan, Joan Blondell, Ann Sothern

★

"SONG OF RUSSIA"
Robert Taylor, Susan Peters

★

"LOST ANGEL"
Margaret O'Brien, James Craig, Marsha Hunt

★

"CROSS OF LORRAINE"
Jean Pierre Aumont, Gene Kelly, Sir Cedric Hardwicke

★

Technicolor
"BROADWAY RHYTHM"
Ginny Simms, George Murphy, Tommy Dorsey

★

"RATIONING"
Wallace Beery, Marjorie Main

★

"SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE"
Robert Walker

★

"SWING FEVER"
Kay Kyser

"Keep up the attack! 4th WAR LOAN!"

'North Star' and 'Curie' Are Week's Philadelphia Best

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 25.—Business at downtown houses is holding up well with two major openings leading. "The North Star" at the Mastbaum points to a big $31,000, while "Madame Curie" figures on giving the Boyd $26,500 in addition to $4,400 grossed on a Sunday dual showing at the Earle. Among holdovers, "Thousands Cheer" is heading for $16,500 in its fourth week at the Stanley.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 26-28:

"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
ALDINE—(900) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,700. (Average: $10,300)
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $19,000)
"Top Man" (Univ.) (6 days)
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville, including Louis Prima's orchestra, Lily Ann Carroll, Roy Davis, Eunice Healy, Paul Sydell and Spotty, Leon Prima and Jimmy Vincent. Gross: $22,600. (Average: $22,000)
"Johnny Come Lately" (UA)
FOX—(3,800) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,700. (Average: $17,800)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $5,600)
"The Iron Major" (RKO)
KEITH'S — (2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $5,000)
"The North Star" (RKO)
MASTBAUM — (4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $22,000)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STANLEY—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $18,300)
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,300. (Average: $8,000)

Cincinnati Variety Names Committees

CINCINNATI, Jan. 25. — Maurice White, newly-elected chief barker of the local Variety Club, has appointed the following committee chairmen: house, Allan S. Moritz; publicity, Noah Schecter; finance, Ralph Kinsler; entertainment, Arthur Frudenfeld; law, Saul Greenberg; membership, Peter Niland; welfare, H. J. Wessel.

Collier is Installed

BALTIMORE, Jan. 25. — The Baltimore Variety Club installed its recently-elected chief barker, Rodney Collier, at an induction ceremony last week. Collier named the following as his committee chairmen: Frank Durkee, welfare; Morris Oletsky, house; Barry Goldman, membership; Lou Becker, entertainment; Lauritz Garman, ways and means, and Ed Yeakle, publicity.

Collier is manager of Warners' Stanley here.

Kane Named in Boston

BOSTON, Jan. 25. — Albert Kane, branch manager of the Paramount exchange here, is the new chief barker of the Boston Variety Club with other officers being elected as follows: Ted Fleischer of Interstate Pictures, first assistant chief Barker; Arthur Lockwood of the Lockwood-Gordon Circuit, second assistant chief barker. Max Levinson, William Horan and Abraham Yarchin are new members of the board of directors.

Review

"Texas Masquerade"

(United Artists)

BESIDES presenting William Boyd in an effective impersonation of a "citified" lawyer from Boston, "Texas Masquerade" follows his characteristic Western pattern with only slight deviation from the usual theme. Producer Harry Sherman again puts Boyd and his side-kicks, Jimmy Rogers and Andy Clyde, through the paces with a vigilant eye to satisfying action-seeking customers.

The story is about unclaimed oil, in great quantities, which lies beneath the land of Mady Correll and other ranchers in the town of Glenby, Texas. Russell Simpson, a "respected" citizen, discovers that fact and, by unscrupulous methods, seeks to take over the territory. Boyd, masquerading as a dude barrister, uncovers the plot and cleans out the gang. As usual no love complication interferes with the fast action and general havoc which characterizes Hopalong Cassidy films.

Moving rapidly and logically, "Texas Masquerade" is absorbing and exciting. Like its predecessors, it's a "natural" for action-lovers. A competent cast performs nicely under the capable direction of George Archainbaud. The screenplay, by Norman Houston and Jack Lait, Jr., is adapted from the Clarence Mulford characterizations. Lewis Rachmil was associate producer.

Running time, 59 mins. Release date not set. "G."*

HELEN MCNAMARA

*"G" denotes general classification.

'Curie's $22,000 Is Tops in Baltimore

BALTIMORE, Jan. 25.—A strong list of new pictures is keeping box offices busy at downtown theatres with top honors due "Madame Curie" which is headed for a $22,000 at the Century, with "No Time for Love" second with $17,000, at the Stanley.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 28:

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $16,000)
"His Buntler's Sister" (Univ.)
KEITH'S (2,406) (28c-40c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross. $15,000. (Average: $12,000)
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (28c-35c-40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,700)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $16,900)
"The Falcon and the Co-eds" (RKO)
HIPPODROME—(2,205) (28c-39c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Stage show: Vaughen Monroe and Orchestra, Gill & Bernie Mason. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $16,800)
"You're a Lucky Fellow Mr. Smith" (Univ.)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $5,900)
"The Mad Ghoul" (Univ.)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,500)

Art Rush Gets RCA West Coast Berth

CAMDEN, N. J., Jan. 25.—W. Arthur Rush has been named West Coast manager of RCA Victor's artists relations. Rush's headquarters will be the NBC building, Hollywood.

Harry Myerson will continue as supervisor of disc recording arrangements at the Hollywood studios. He will also continue to handle the rental of recording facilities to independent film producers in Hollywood.

Weitman to Head Forum

Robert M. Weitman, managing director of the Broadway Paramount, will preside at a forum Monday night at The Actors' Temple, 339 West 47th St., on Jewish persecution. Rabbi Bernard Birstein has organized the meeting, which will be the first of a series. Dean Alfange will be the principal speaker.

'Dull Moment', Show, $29,000 in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Jan. 25. — "Never a Dull Moment" with a stage show at the RKO Albee proved the outstanding draw over the weekend, with a terrific $29,000 in sight for the run.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 26-29:

"Never a Dull Moment" (Univ.)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: "Dante," Virginia Weidler and the Oxford Boys. Gross: $29,500. (Average: $22,000)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $10,000)
"The Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
"Racket Man" (Col.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,600. (Average: $1,400)
"The Vigilantes Ride" (Col.)
"The Underdog" (PRC)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $750. (Average: $800)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $10,000)
"What a Woman" (Col.)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover from Shubert. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $5,000)
"This Is the Army" (WB)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,200)
"Government Girl" (RKO)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000)
"Riding High" (Para.)
RKO SHUBERT—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Palace. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,500)

Army in Australia Getting Film Quota

The U. S. Army in Australia is receiving its full quota of Hollywood current gift-films, sometimes several months in advance of regular theatres there, Sidney Allbright, Australian general manager for United Artists, reported yesterday. He is here on a visit.

Under a "chart system" developed by Major Cowan, combat troops are booked first. Films are brought as close to the battle lines as possible and are then re-routed behind the lines to other troops.

'Children' Gets $26,000 for House Record

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—An all-time record was established at the Garrick Theatre for a third week with the $26,000 gross for "Where Are Your Children?" and "Unknown Guest." "The North Star" at the Palace and "The Fighting SeaBees" at the Woods captured increased receipts, while slumps occurred at other Loop houses, tapering off extended runs.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 21:

"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
APOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $10,600)
"Hostages" (Para.)
CHICAGO—(3,850) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Andrew Sisters with Mitch Ayres' orchestra. Gross: $41,000. (Average: $45,000)
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Unknown Guest" (Mono.)
GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $8,700)
"Lady Takes a Chance" (RKO)
"Squadron Leader X" (RKO)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week in Loop. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,900)
"Crazy House" (Univ.)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days, 3rd Loop run. Stage: D'Artega band. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $23,400)
"The North Star" (RKO)
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
PALACE—(2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $20,000)
"Sahara" (Col.)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $19,200)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
STATE-LAKE—(2,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $22,600)
"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $19,200).
"The Heat's On" (Col.) 5 days
"Fighting SeaBees" (Rep.) 2 days
WOODS — (1,200) (55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $10,000).

RKO Chiefs Attend Party for Starlets

Samuel Goldwyn was host last night at a reception accorded Constance Dowling and Vera-Ellen, Goldwyn players, at the St. Regis Hotel. Miss Dowling recently completed a role in "Up in Arms" and Vera-Ellen, featured in the Broadway musical, "A Connecticut Yankee," will soon go to Hollywood.

Among those present were N. Peter Rathvon, Ned Depinet, Rutgers Neilson, James Mulvey, Robert Mochrie, Walter Branson, Harry Michaelson, Jimmy Dunn, Mort Nathanson, William Formby, Benny Baker, Arthur Brilant, Irving Shiffrin, Jack Harrison, Lou Pelligrene, Irene Thirer, Wanda Hale, Gil Blackford, Larry Reed and Jack Berk.

Monogram Dickering For Biltmore Films

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—Negotiations for the release by Monogram of Biltmore productions are underway. W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY today.

Lou Costello's father, Sebastian Costello, and Eddie Sherman, the comedian's manager, head Biltmore. The first film planned is "WAVE, WAC and SPAR."



"THOUSANDS CHEER" the 10-week Astor, N. Y. hit is already a nationwide box-office joy. Advertised to America in a giant campaign including M-G-M's one and only regular radio program. Here are a few enlargements of Technicolor frame clips from the film itself. Just a sample of M-G-M's Show of Shows!



Virginia O'Brien—with her frozen face



The voice of an angel—Kathryn Grayson





Eleanor Powell—tantalizing taps





Judy Garland—"The Joint Is Really Jumpin'"





Bob Crosby and Bob Cats





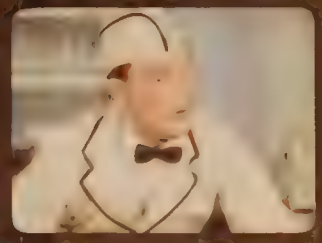




Lana Turner—of plenty



Mary Astor—and styles by Irene









Lassie, Barrymore and Skelton



John Boles—





STARIFFIC IN TECHNICOLOR

M-G-M's

"THOUSANDS CHEER"

30 STARS! 3 BANDS!

Original Screen Play by Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins based on their story "Private Miss Jones."

Directed by GEORGE SIDNEY

Produced by JOSEPH PASTERNAK





SEE OTHER SIDE AND THERE'S MORE HERE TOO



M-G-M's GREATEST GROUP "VITAMIN 12"

Pep! Profits! Pleasure! LOOK:

"THOUSANDS CHEER"
Stariffic in Technicolor

★

"MADAME CURIE"
Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon

★

"A GUY NAMED JOE"
Spencer Tracy, Irene Dunne

★

"THE HEAVENLY BODY"
William Powell, Hedy Lamarr

★

"CRY 'HAVOC'"
Margaret Sullavan, Joan Blondell, Ann Sothern

★

"SONG OF RUSSIA"
Robert Taylor, Susan Peters

★

"LOST ANGEL"
Margaret O'Brien, James Craig, Marsha Hunt

★

"CROSS OF LORRAINE"
Jean Pierre Aumont, Gene Kelly, Sir Cedric Hardwicke

★

Technicolor
"BROADWAY RHYTHM"
Ginny Simms, George Murphy, Tommy Dorsey

★

"RATIONING"
Wallace Beery, Marjorie Main

★

"SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE"
Robert Walker

★

"SWING FEVER"
Kay Kyser

Keep up the attack! 4th WAR LOAN

Paramount

IS PROUD TO SALUTE

The Movie Man of the Year

"Covered" by *Life* and *Time*—

Front-paged from coast to coast for his great entertainment of America's fighting men—

Voted one of the ten top money-making stars in Motior Picture Herald's exhibitor poll—

Voted Radio's Champion of Champions in Motion Picture Daily's poll—

Voted the best comedian on the air in Radio Daily's poll—

Voted one of the ten leading screen actors in Boxoffice and Showmen's Trade Review surveys—

Now breaking records in "LET'S FACE IT"—

Coming in "THE ROAD TO UTOPIA"—with co-stars Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour.

LIFE



BOB HOPE:
NO. 1 COMEDIAN

JANUARY 10, 1944 10 CENTS
YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION $4.50

Hollywood's Post-Holiday Spurt Fades

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—The production front discloses no signs of December predictions of a post-holiday spurt in pictures. Six finished work this week, five new ones started, to bring the total on the stages to 40, compared with three finished, eight started, and 41 shooting the previous week. The production scene:

Columbia

Started: "The Girl in the Case" with Edmund Loew, Janis Carter, Robert Scott, Eddie Laughton, John Tyrell, Robert Williams, Stanley Clements; "Pilebuck" with Pat O'Brien, Chester Morris, Ruth Warrick, Carole Landis, Wallace Ford, Tom Tully, Howard Freeman, Frank Sully, Barton MacLane, Robert Williams.

Shooting: "At Night We Dream," "Address Unknown."

M-G-M

Started: "National Velvet" with Mickey Rooney, Elizabeth Taylor, Jackie Jenkins, Anne Revere Reginald Owen, Donald Crisp, Juanita Quigley, Mona Freeman.

Shooting: "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross," "Dragon Seed."

Monogram

Shooting: "Murder in the Fun House," "Law Men."

Paramount

Shooting: "Bring on the Girls," "One Body Too Many," "And Now Tomorrow," "Road to Utopia," "Incendiary Blonde," "The Hitler Gang."

Finished: "Till We Meet Again."

P. R. C.

Started: "Thundering Gunslingers" with Buster Crabbe, Al St. John, Frances Gladwin.

Finished: "Her Last Mile" (formerly "Lady in the Death House"), "Frontier Outlaws" (formerly "Buster Crabbe No. 4").

RKO-Radio

Started: "One Exciting Night" with Tom Conway, Louis Borell, Audrey Long, Don Douglas, Jean Brooks, Tessa Brind, Claire Carleton, Eddie Brophy, Russell Hopton, Edmund Glover, Tom Bryson.

Republic

Shooting: "Jamboree," "The Man from Frisco," "Cowboy and the Senorita."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "Wilson," "I Married a Soldier."

Finished: "Ladies of Washington," "Home in Indiana," "Bermuda Mystery."

Theatre Management Record and Annual Tax Register

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QUIGLEY BOOKSHOP
Rockefeller Center, New York (20)

Reviews

"Swing Out the Blues"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, Jan. 25

PRODUCED by Sam White with Mal St. Clair directing, "Swing Out the Blues" is a minor musical in all that the term entails. It does not give Bob Haymes much opportunity to prove his worth as an actor nor to show his wares in the crooning department.

Lynn Merrick turns in a creditable piece of work in the meager role the script affords her. She is a wealthy girl, sick of life with a domineering aunt, who weds Haymes at the time he and his buddies, The Vagabonds, are scrambling for a break in show business. Because of a misunderstanding over a girl agent, who seeks Bob's love by fair means or foul, coupled with a mixup over Lynn's reasons for marrying him, Bob leaves. He returns, in uniform, after his child is born, just when the domineering aunt is trying to drive Lynn back to her old life.

The Vagabonds take over most of the picture, giving out with the brand of corn, tall and plentiful, that characterizes offerings of the Ritz Brothers. The quartet tell the yarn in flashbacks to radio councillor Tim Ryan, doing a Mr. Anthony type of broadcast. Janis Carter is effective as the agent-siren. The script is by Doris Cochran.

Running time, 79 mins. "G."* Release date, Dec. 23, 1943.

JACK CARTWRIGHT

"Mojave Firebrand"

(*Republic*)

Hollywood, Jan. 25

PLENTY of gunplay highlights this Eddie White production, starring Wild Bill Elliott, which Spencer Bennett directed effectively. Norman S. Hall's story is more complicated than the usual Western, thereby creating greater audience interest.

George (Gabby) Hayes, as an old prospector, founds the town of Epitaph, hoping that justice will reign there. But the rich mines attract a horde of undesirables, headed by LeRoy Mason as Tracy Dalton, gambler and murderer. By means of a crooked election, Mason's men take over the offices of mayor and sheriff. They organize the Miners' Protective League, to which the miners are forced to pay tribute.

Into this unsavory situation rides Wild Bill Elliott, who frustrates an attempted bank robbery, kills Mason, and brings the rest of the gang to justice. Harry McKim is appealing as a small boy torn between his admiration for Mason's lawless deeds and his hero-worship for Elliott. Anna Jeffreys is sympathetic as the child's school teacher.

Running time, 55 mins. "G."* Release date not set. THALIA BELL

*"G" denotes general classification.

United Artists
(Jules Levey)
Shooting: "The Hairy Ape."
(Charles R. Rogers)
Shooting: "Song of the Open Road."
(Andrew Stone)
Shooting: "Sensations of 1944."
(Vanguard)
Shooting: "Since You Went Away."

Universal

Shooting: "The Invisible Man's Revenue," The Scarlet Claw," "The Merry Monahans," "Christmas Holiday."

Warners

Shooting: "Cinderella Jones," "Make Your Own Bed," "Mask for Dimitrios," "Mr. Skeffington," "My Reputation," "The Horn Blows at Midnight," "Janie."

OWI Shorts in Work

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25. — Universal started shootings yesterday on "Prices, Unlimited," the first of seven shorts for the Office of War Information to be filmed by various studios here as constituents of the Hollywood division of the War Activities Committee.

Columbia will start on "Wartime Taxes" Thursday, and "Skirmish on the Home Front" goes before the cameras at Paramount later in the week. Warner Bros., 20th Century-Fox, M-G-M and Selznick Productions will soon follow with one short each.

Glamorous $18,600 Gross for 'Glamour'

OMAHA, Jan. 25. — "Footlight Glamour," buoyed by the appearance of Al Dexter and his Texas Rangers on the Orpheum Theatre stage, grossed $18,600. In a moveover from the Paramount, "Thousands Cheer" netted $9,400 at the Omaha in a second week. Extremely moderate weather continued.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 27-28:

"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
"What a Woman" (Col.)
BRANDIES—(1,200) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $7,600. (Average: $5,500)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
"Two Weeks to Live" (RKO)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 6 days, "Thousands Cheer," 2nd week on a moveover from the Paramount. Gross: $9,400. (Average: $6,900)
"Footlight Glamour" (Col.)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days, Al Dexter's band on stage. Gross: $18,600. (Average: $14,900)
"Phantom of the Opera" (Univ.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 6 days. Gross: $8,900. (Average: $9,800)

Withdraw Clearance Cas

The clearance complaint of R. J. Miller, operator of the Colony Theatre, McHenry, Ill., against the five decree companies has been withdrawn at the Chicago tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday. Withdrawal followed an agreement, terms of which were not disclosed.

Hollywood

Hollywood, Jan. 25

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

WARNERS are tossing five short subjects into the ring this week for possible Academy Awards. Three are two-reelers and two are of one-reel footage. In the two-reel classification Warners are submitting "Women at War," a story of the WACS; "The Voice that Thrilled the World," a tale about the advent of talking pictures, and "Rear Gunner," with Capt. Phil Reagan and Capt. Meredith Willson. In the one-reel department they are offering "Veloz and Yolanda," the noted dance team, and "Into the Clouds," the story of Army tests of materials and equipment used in mountain fighting.

●

Andrew Stone has Eleanor Powell, Constance Purdy, Joseph Devlin, George Humbert, Dennis O'Keefe and numerous top-flight circus performers, as well as 50 dancing girls, before cameras for circus nightclub scenes for his "Sensations of 1944." . . . Eddie Bracken, former stage singer, sings for the first time on the screen in Paramount's "Bring on the Girls," starring Veronica Lake, Marjorie Reynolds, Bracken and Sonny Tufts.

●

Everett Freeman and Jack Yellen are scripting "Caroline," Deanna Durbin's next. It will be in Technicolor with a Western background. . . . Arthur Hornblow and writers Eric Charrell and Guy Bolton, are preparing "Weekend at the Waldorf" at M-G-M. . . . Lynn Merrick the feminine lead in Columbia's has "Calling All Stars."

●

Universal will step up production the last weeks of January with four new pictures scheduled for the stages. These four, with two still in work, gives the studio a total of six companies in work: "Sherlock Holmes in Canada," with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce; "The Invisible Man's Revenge," starring Jon Hall with Evelyn Angers and Alan Curtis; Jean Yarbrough's "South of Dixie" and George Waggner's "The Climax," Technicolor film starring Susanna Foster.

●

William Goetz, International Pictures president, reports starting dates for three productions during February and March. "Casanova Q. Brown," starring Gary Cooper and Teresa Wright, Feb. 15, with Nunnally Johnson producing from his own script; Director William Seiter will put "Belle of the Yukon," Gypsy Rose Lee starrer, before the cameras on Feb. 25, and Johnson's "Once Off Guard," starring Edward G. Robinson, with Fritz Lang directing, is set to start March 15. Jack Murton, International's new casting director, is in charge of casting all three pictures.

Williams Circuit Now Has 19 S. W. Theatres

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 25.—K. Lee Williams, operator of Williams Theatres, which now has 19 houses in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, reports that he will move his offices from Hot Springs to De Queen, Ark.

Williams, who operated a film exchange at Oklahoma City for 25 years, began his circuit at De Queen five years ago.

A PROMISE TO A KID ON CRUTCHES

Thousands of p[illegible] MARCH OF DIMES DRIVE just one thing. The exhibitors [illegible]ght on Infantile Paralysis during the week of January 24th to [illegible] This fight for the life and happiness of stricken children is something that comes close to all of us and to our public. They will spare a dime for it when you champion this cause with sincere Showmanship. They will contribute when Greer Garson appeals to them in the beautiful trailer. Here's a promise to a kid on crutches: When a feller needs a friend—depend on the sporting heart of America's theatre men.

School Holiday And Weather Aid Grosses At B'way Theatres

Grosses at Broadway houses are excellent with new arrivals and holdovers running up impressive totals, aided by good weather and the influx of high school students on holiday.

Leader is the Roxy, featuring "The Lodger" and a stage show headed by the Blue Network's variety program, "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street." The combined bill is headed for $104,000, with $84,000 registered in the first five days. It will hold for a second.

Aided by near perfect press reviews, "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" is headed for a smash $100,000 on its first week at the Paramount. The picture and a stage show headed by Johnny Long and his band will hold for a second week.

With $63,000 registered on the first four days of the sixth week, "Madame Curie" and a stage show at the Radio City Music Hall is headed for $98,000 and will hold for a seventh week starting tomorrow to become the fourth picture in the house's 11-year history to have a run that long. Fifth week for "A Guy Named Joe" and the stage show headed by Kathryn Grayson, Lou Holtz and Richard Himber's orchestra will do $70,000 at the Capitol with a sixth week set to start tomorrow.

Fourth week for "Destination Tokyo" and a stage show headed by Charlie Barnet and his band at the Strand will be capacity for $55,000 and is set for a fifth and sixth week. "Lifeboat" at the Astor is headed for a second week in excess of $30,000 and will hold for a third. Second week for "Where Are My Children?" at the Globe is estimated at $25,000 and will hold for a third. Initial week's gross of $28,200 was near record business. Sixth week for "Desert Song" at the Hollywood will do $20,000 and the picture will hold for a seventh.

"Gung Ho!" opened at the Criterion yesterday, following "His Butler's Sister," which registered $16,500 on the final five days of its fourth week. "Spider Woman" will do $8,000 on its second and final week at the Rialto and "Return of the Vampire" will open at the theatre Friday.

Initial three days for "Higher and Higher" at the Palace is quoted at $14,000 with the picture expected to gross around $30,000 in its first week. It will hold for a second. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" concluded its run at the Rivoli Monday, grossing $18,000 on the final four days. Twentieth-Fox's "The Song of Bernadette" will open at the theatre today after an invitational preview last night. The State will join the ranks of first-run houses this week with M-G-M's "Swing Fever" set to open at the theatre tomorrow. "The North Star" at the New Victoria is headed for $15,500 on its 12th week and will hold for a 13th.

Hanson Buys Two More

TORONTO, Jan. 25.—Oscar Hanson has further expanded his theatre holdings with the acquisition of the Regent Theatre, Sturgeon Falls, Ont., from the estate of R. T. Stevens, and a theatre at St. Johns, Que.

Legion Classifies 9, None Objectionable

The Legion of Decency this week classified nine films, finding none objectionable. Six were classified in Class A-1, unobjectionable for general patronage; while three were listed as unobjectionable for adults.

Those in Class A-1 are: "Arizona Whirlwind," Monogram; "Beautiful but Broke," Columbia; "Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout," Paramount; "Nabonga," PRC; "Rationing," M-G-M, and "West Bound," Monogram. Those in Class A-2, Section 2 are "None Shall Escape," Columbia; "Standing Room Only," Paramount, and "Timber Queen," Paramount.

USO Shows Helping Good Neighbor Policy

USO-Camp Show groups going overseas to entertain our troops are helping to cement good neighbor relations by appearing even before royalty, Frederic March revealed here the other day. March cited his own command performance before the royal family of Iran during his 14-week trip.

March also revealed that Abe Lastfogel, USO-Camp shows exceutive, who has returned from Hollywood with commitments from many additional actors and actresses to join units going overseas to entertain the soldiers.

'Diary' Gets Smash $26,000 in Boston

BOSTON, Jan. 25.—After a temporary lull business here shot back to new marks again and indications are that it will continue so long as the weather remains good. "Guadalcanal Diary" held up for $26,000 at the Metropolitan after a smash hit of $30,000 for the first week. "Whistling in Brooklyn" scored heavily.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 27:

"Ghost Ship" (RKO)
KEITH BOSTON—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $24,800). Stage: Vaughn Monroe and orchestra.
"Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
"Holmes Secret Service" (Univ.)
KEITH MEMORIAL—(2,900) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $19,300)
"Guadalcanal Diary" (20th-Fox)
"Good Fellows" (Para.)
METROPOLITAN—(4,367) (35c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $27,400)
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
"Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(2,900) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Grosa: $23,000. (Average, $23,700)
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
"Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
LOEWS STATE—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $13,600)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
FENWAY—(1,373) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,000)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT — (1,700) (44c-55c-65c). Gross: $14,000. (Average: $10,600)
"Mad Ghoul" (Univ.)
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.)
TRANS LUX—(990) (28c-35c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $7,200. (Average: $6,000)

'Hostages' Bids for $12,800 in Toronto

TORONTO, Jan. 25.—"Hostages" was aiming for $12,800 at Shea's Theatre, and "The Adventures of Tartu," dualling with "Young Ideas," was counting on $12,300 at Loew's Theatre. The second week of "Princess O'Rourke" at the Imperial pointed to $12,100.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 27:

"Dancing Masters" (20th-Fox)
"Paris After Dark" (20th-Fox)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,400. (Average: $3,900)
"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,100. (Average: $12,600)
"The Adventures of Tartu" (M-G-M)
"Young Ideas" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $12,300. (Average: $10,800)
"Hostages" (Para.)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,800. Average: $12,300)
"Claudia" (20th-Fox)
"The Battle of Russia" (20th-Fox)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $5,100. (Average: $4,600)
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 4 days, 4th week. Gross: $5,700. (Average: $9,700)

Warners Sets Up a Non-Theatrical Unit

Warners have established an educational service for schools, colleges and libraries under the direction of Charles Side Steinberg, formerly educational director of the Book-of-the-Month Club.

The project will make available to teachers practical teaching aids on appropriate motion pictures for study and discussion by classes, school literary and book clubs, school and college libraries, and other such groups.



Heart-break ahead for this Mother and thousands like her. Pacific beachheads cost lives. Mother! There are 16,000 grateful Showmen who promise to honor your boy with all their Showmanship hearts!

No greater honor than to be among the Industry's

HONORED HUNDRED

of the 4th WAR LOAN!

WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON

All Expenses Paid!

ONE HUNDRED NAMES WILL BE FAMOUS IN THIS INDUSTRY. HOW ABOUT YOU!



Use the fighting Campaign Book! Full details on pages 6 and 7.

Be one of the honored 100 Showmen who will sell the most "E" Bonds in ratio to the number of seats in their theatres! Be one of the men to go to Washington, to become famous in the trade, to be honored at functions with presentation of Treasury citation, of special medallion, and to be named on National 5th War Loan Committee! It's the greatest honor of all for the industry's soldiers of the home front!

War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, New York City

$3,000,000 Goal Of 'Dimes' Drive Already in View

(Continued from page 1)

for Texas, has wired that four Dallas theatres in the first four days collected $16,000; last year the total for the entire state was $11,000. Carter Barron, "Dimes" chairman for the District of Columbia, set a goal of $56,000 for theatres in that territory; in the first four days, $31,000 was reported. C. B. Akers, Oklahoma City, has announced that a group in his city collected $5,100 on the first day, against $4,600 in the 10 days of the 1943 campaign. Meanwhile, 70 per cent more theatres in Oklahoma are taking collections.

Ted Schlanger, chairman for Eastern Pennsylvania, wired that last weekend "Dimes" money there ran from 25 to 40 per cent of total theatre receipts. Don Jacocks, New Jersey state chairman, reported receipts in his territory running from 100 to 150 per cent over last year. A. Joseph DeFiore, state chairman for Delaware, said his drive opened with figures far in excess of all expectations.

Ricketson Is Named To War Fund Board

F. H. Ricketson, Jr., president of Fox Intermountain Theatres, Denver, has been elected a member of the board of directors of the National War Fund, Inc., the nationwide organization through which all war and related relief funds are channeled both for this country and the United Nations. Winthrop Aldrich is National War Fund president.



F. H. Ricketson, Jr.

Ricketson is now in New York serving with Charles P. Skouras, chairman, as national vice-chairman of the film industry's 4th War Loan committee.

National Theatres Sets 'Dimes' Record

Despite the absence from home operations of National Theatres' executives who are in New York conducting the industry's 4th War Loan Drive, Charles P. Skouras and other company executives reported here yesterday that the circuit last weekend established the largest two-day "March of Dimes" collection on record.

Fox West Coast Theatres collected $102,000; Southern California West Coast got $63,994, and National California Theatres, $38,006. They took in twice the amount realized last year during any two-day period.

Pledge Bond Break in Every Newsreel Issue

(Continued from page 1)

Ricketson, Jr., national vice-chairman of the industry's committee; B. V. Sturdivant, national campaign director; W. C. Michel, 20th-Fox, and president of Movietone News; Claude Lee, industry liaison with the U. S. Treasury for the 4th War Loan; Edmund Reek, Movietone Newsreel; Fred Ullman, Pathe News; Walter Ament, Pathe News; Al Richard, Paramount News; Tom Mead, Universal Newsreel; Morton McConnachie, Metrotone News; Joseph O'Brien, Universal News; John Wood, March of Time; Tony Muto, Washington representative of Movietone News; Seymour Peiser, national publicity director, 4th War Loan Committee; A. J. Krappmann, assistant national campaign director; Sam Shain; Ed Schreiber, War Activities Committee, and Robert Selig, assistant national campaign director and national manager of the "Honored Hundred" contest.

Ruggles and Shepard Set Record in Ohio

SPRINGFIELD, O., Jan. 25.—Hollywood Bond Battalion No. 5, headed by Charles Ruggles and Elaine Shepard, have been setting up a record of bond sales and appearances in this territory. In Akron they participated in a broadcast followed by an appearance before 4,000 bond sellers. In Youngstown they appeared at the Youngstown Welding Co., Republic Rubber Co., on a statewide radio program and at the school auditorium. In Canton, a noon luncheon brought $36,750 in bond sales and a stop at the Westinghouse Naval Ordnance plant accounted for $26,000. Cohocton netted $10,500 and in two bond premieres in Zanesville the sale was $376,775.

In Springfield the battalion sparked a pep meeting of the industrial committee of management and appeared before the Robbins Myers Company's 1,500 employees to spur purchases above 10 per cent deductions. A rally at Memorial auditorium added $150,000 in bond sales.

Captured Equipment Adds Color to Drive

Captured Japanese and German military equipment has been made available by the Army for use in the 4th War Loan Drive in cooperation with theatre men in their bond selling activities, adding interest and color to parades and rallies throughout the country.

Four thousand German helmets have been distributed to the various states War Finance Committees as well as hundreds of Japanese and German rifles and parts. The equipment, which is being used by exhibitors to dress-up lobby displays and other exhibits, includes German tanks, Messerschmidts, field pieces, machine guns, anti-tank guns, howitzers, fighter planes, half-tracks. This material is available in the nine Army Service Commands and arrangements for its use can be made through the liaison officer assigned as contact with the local motion picture chairman.

30 Bond Premieres In Washington State

SEATTLE, Jan. 25.—Thirty bond premieres have been set for the 4th War Loan Drive in the state of Washington, state chairman Frank L. Newman, Sr., today reported.

"Free Movie Nights" and "Stamp Book Conversion Days" have been set in all key situations. A "Gold Star Honored Roll" idea is being worked out with civic organizations, clubs, firms and other groups. Department stores and banks are acting as issuing agents for tickets to the bond premieres to be held Feb. 3 in Seattle.

Mrs. Thompson, an exhibitor in Pomeroy, Wash., with a population of 3,000, has sold 917 bonds at her premiere held in a 500-seat house.

Falkenberg-Garfield Chicago Net $659,000

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—Jinx Falkenberg and John Garfield, Hollywood Bondbardiers, have added $659,000 in bond sales to their record over the week end. An appearance at the Dole Valve Company netted $97,000 in bond sales and their Treasury broadcast on Victory Matinee program over CBS added $80,000. A South Side community rally at the Avalon Theatre brought $407,000; a WDCA rally at the Hamilton Hotel brought in $50,000 and $25,000 came from a West Side community rally.

'Gung Ho!' Boosts Chinatown's Quota

William Poe Lee, chairman of the New York Chinatown war bond committee, reports that the adoption of "Gung Ho!" as the slogan for the 4th War Loan Drive there in his section, resulting from Universal's current promotion of its picture "Gung Ho!", has influenced the Chinese to the extent that the $1,000,000 bond quota set for them will be quintupled.

The Chinatown committee, working with Maurice Bergman, Universal's Eastern advertising and publicity manager, made wide use of the "Gung Ho!" slogan which means "Work Together," in connection with a rally last weekend and a luncheon attended by Treasury officials and Chinese dignitaries. The rally ended with a special preview of the picture in the Chinese school.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war and campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

WILLIAM H. FREEMAN, Bardavon Theatre, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
MRS. JANE SMITH, Olympic Theatre, Utica, N. Y.
F. S. FALKENBURG, Alabama Theatre, Birmingham, Ala.
ANDY COWAN, Town Theatre, Great Falls, Mont.
L. MCVEIGH, Manhasset Theatre, Manhasset, Long Island.
JOHN TAYLOR, Chief Theatre, Pocatello, Ida.
BERT MILANO, Strand Theatre, Helper, Utah.
FRED D. MCMILLAN, Silver Theatre, Silver Spring, Md.
LUTHER STRONG, Fox Theatre, La Junta, Col.
FRANK K. ELDRIDGE, Capitol Theatre, Concord, N. H.
F. L. WILLIAMS, Athena Theatre, Athens, O.
DON W. LOFTUS, Strand Theatre, Fort Dodge, Ia.

Jack Partington of Fanchon-Marco Dies

(Continued from page 1)

inated the idea of a combination stage show and picture presentation, at the Imperial Theatre, San Francisco, later installing the same policy at the Granada and Paramount there. Moving to New York he assumed supervision at the Paramount in Brooklyn and later at the Paramount in New York.

Partington is said to be the inventor and holder of patent rights to an idea of having moving objects in stage presentations such as elevated band pits. He has been one of the operating heads of the Roxy for the past 11 years.

Partington is survived by his widow, Inger, a son, John Allan, Jr., staff sergeant in the U. S. Army, and two sisters, Miss Blanche Partington and Mrs. Gertrude Partington Albright, both of San Francisco.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.

NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING

OF

ESCAPE TO DANGER

MON. JAN 31st, at 11:00 A.M.

RKO PROJECTION ROOM

630 Ninth Ave., New York, N. Y.

DO NOT REMOVE

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 19 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1944 TEN CENTS

Average for Top Plays Hits $100,000 Each

18 B'way Toppers Bought For $1,820,000

Film companies paid $1,820,000 outright, plus considerable additional sums to accrue from percentage arrangements on distribution of the subjects filmed, for screen rights to 18 top plays purchased during 1943, it was revealed to MOTION PICTURE DAILY by Sidney R. Fleisher, arbiter of the Dramatists' Guild, through whom the deals are cleared.

The figures would be considerably higher if they included deals entered into in 1943 but which have not yet been finalized, such as Mary Pickford's deal for "Junior Miss" for $410,000, or $355,000 plus a percentage of the net of the film; the deal for "Nine Girls" by Columbia; "The Hairy Ape," by Jules Levey, and "Laugh Parade," by M-G-M. Also, the million dollar payment by 20th

(*Continued on page 12*)

40 in 1944-45 from RKO Says Depinet

RKO plans about 40 pictures for 1944-45, the same as that contemplated for 1943-44, Ned E. Depinet, RKO Radio president, revealed in an interview here yesterday upon his return from the Coast, where he concluded a deal whereby RKO will release

(*Continued on page 6*)

Royalty Will Honor British Exhibitors

London, Jan. 26.—Exhibitors here will be formally honored for the first time by royalty when the Duke of Gloucester will appear as guest of honor at the annual conference of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association in March.

This will be the Duke's last official function prior to his departure for Australia to assume the Governor-Generalship. The Duke's presence at the CEA meeting is considered a tribute to the industry and particularly to Henry Simpson, retiring CEA head.

Chicago Papers Give Ad Priorities to Theatres

By LEONARD GNEIER

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—First priority on rationed newsprint advertising space is being reserved by the five metropolitan dailies for their $2,000,000-a-year client, the composite of more than 300 motion picture theatres of Greater Chicagoland, with its population of 4,500,000.

The only daily that has been rejecting large ads from Loop theatres is the tabloid *Times*. Henry M. Markbrite, manager of the *Times* amusement advertising department, explained that this was necessary because a record-breaking amount of space was consumed by motion picture theatres in November and December of last year. The normal amount of space, which permits the *Times* to keep within its WPB newsprint allotment, is of course being accepted, stressed Markbrite.

The *Chicago Tribune* is not rejecting any copy from film theatres. However, Charles Steffens, manager of the

(*Continued on page 6*)

$5 'Raise' Seen For N.Y. Operators

A wage increase plan which would enable several hundred members of New York IATSE, projectionists' Local No. 306, employed in scores of Loew and RKO New York theatres to recover a part of a previous wage cut to meet the increased cost of living is now pending before the War Labor Board. Under the plan, they would work one hour a week extra

(*Continued on page 12*)

Atlanta to Adopt 48-Hour Work-Week

ATLANTA, Jan. 26.—This city has been classed as one with acute war labor problems and business houses, including theatres and film exchanges have been ordered to go on a 48-hour work-week, according to Sloan Springfield, of the War Manpower Commission.

In instances where the 48-hour week would burden employers an appeal can be made. The 48-hour ruling goes into effect Feb. 1 and becomes compulsory March 1.

Some film executives here looked upon the ruling with satisfaction, hoping that it would answer at least part of their labor problems, while others complained they had not suffered from any lack of labor and are against a 48-hour week.

Schenck Finds Rise In 'Dimes' Returns Uniform in U. S.

"All sections of the country, not any one locality, are running far ahead of last year in the current 'March of Dimes' Drive," declared Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, Inc., and national chairman of the industry's drive for the infantile paralysis fund, upon his return to New York from Florida yesterday.



Nicholas M. Schenck

"The reports that I have seen," Schenck continued, "indicate that the national total will far exceed the most optimistic expectations."

Reports to New York "Dimes"

(*Continued on page 12*)

PRC May Purchase Briggs' Contract

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Producers Releasing Corp. is about to conclude negotiations for purchasing the remaining portion of its contract with O. H. Briggs, president, thereby eliminating him from the company, it is reliably understood here.

Further indications are that Leon Fromkess, vice president, will emerge as head of the firm.

Controlling interests in PRC were recently reported to have given their support to the Fromkess policy of increasing production out of current earnings instead of using the revenue to establish postwar reserves, as Briggs had proposed.

Lustgarten Succeeds Kaufman at B & K

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Harry Lustgarten today was appointed chief film buyer and head of the Balaban and Katz booking department, succeeding Joe Kaufman, resigned. The new appointment is effective May 1.

Industry Sets Bond Week for Eisenhower

Feb. 9-15 Named as 'E' Week in Campaign

The industry's 4th War Loan Committee yesterday announced Feb. 9 to 15 as "Eisenhower Week" and called for an extra burst of "E" bond-selling effort by exhibitors at that time as a salute to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, leader of the Allied invasion forces.

Charles P. Skouras, national industry drive chairman, set as the slogan for the special week: "'E' for Everything. . . . 'E' for Eisenhower . . . 'E' for 'E' bonds . . . 'E' for Every seat in the theatres . . . and 'E' for Excellence expected of every showman in the drive."



Photo by Acme

Gen. D. Eisenhower

The Treasury Department has

(*Continued on page 6*)

Exhibitors to Honor Skouras' Bond Work

New York and New Jersey exhibitors will honor Charles P. Skouras, National Theatres president and chairman of the industry's 4th War Loan Drive, at a testimonial luncheon in the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria here on Feb. 7, Harry Brandt, committee chairman, announced yester-

(*Continued on page 12*)

Kelly's Accepting Rank Post Deferred

London, Jan. 26.—Arthur W. Kelly, United Artists' vice-president in charge of television activities, who has been offered a post as head of world wide distribution of British product controlled by J. Arthur Rank, has deferred making a decision until after he talks with UA directors upon his return to New York.

2½ Millions for Gov't Film Storage

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26. — During hearings by the House Appropriations Committee on the Independent Offices Supply Bill today, officials of U. S. National Archives revealed plans for a $2,500,000 film storage and servicing building to be constructed here to care for the increased mass of motion picture and still films being accumulated by Federal agencies. Plans have already been drawn for the building, in which will be stored pictures of the war and key industry-made films filed with the Library of Congress for copyright purposes.

FCC Budget Slashed

The Appropriations Committee today slashed $1,654,857 from the Federal Communications Commission's estimates of money required to conduct its war activities during the year beginning July 1, but added $209,080 to its appropriation for FCC's regular work, to cover overtime pay. Reporting the Independent Offices Supply Bill to the House, the Committee approved a total appropriation of $6,716,843 for the FCC, $893,071 less than the fund for the current year. Of this total, $2,209,000 is for work under the Communications Act, $16,700 for printing and binding and $4,491,143 for national defense activities. Also carried in the measure is an appropriation of $1,042,340 for the National Archives, which is an increase of $157,340 over the current fund but $41,660 less than the budget estimates.

Allied Board Meet Discusses 'Caravan'

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 26.—The Allied "Caravan," particularly in its relation to trade practices and improved exhibitor communications, was the sole topic of discussion at the Eastern regional conference of Allied directors held here today at the Warwick Hotel. Irving Dollinger of New Jersey Allied and National Allied vice-president, presided.

Among others present were: Jack Greenberg, Ralph Wilkins, Harry H. Lowenstein, Lee Newbury, George L. Ickes, Abram F. Myers, Si Myers, Lou Gold, Sidney E. Samuelson, Joseph Conway, E. T. Kelly and Maxwell Alderman.

Smith Seeks Greater Equipment Stockpile

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Allen G. Smith, chief of the War Production Board's theatre service section, declared here tonight prior to departing for St. Louis, that no pressing problems confront theatre equipment dealers, but that he is interested in having them build up replacement stocks to the greatest extent possible.

While in St. Louis, Smith plans to confer with the Equipment Dealers Protective Association. He will return here over the weekend and late next week will make a similar trip to New York where he will confer with theatre supply dealers.

Personal Mention

Y. FRANK FREEMAN, Paramount vice-president in charge of studio operations, is in town.

•

ARTHUR GOLDSMITH, manager of Warner's Boyd, Philadelphia, is ill with arthritis. LOU COLANTUANO, manager of the circuit's Lane, is substituting for him.

•

CHARLES PRUTZMAN, Universal vice-president and general counsel, and MRS. PRUTZMAN will arrive in New York from the Coast this weekend.

•

WILLIAM KEEGAN, general manager for the Hunt circuit in Southern New Jersey, is seriously ill at a hospital in Trenton.

•

AL SHORTLEY, manager of the Princess Theatre, Columbia, Tenn., has been elected to the board of directors of the local chamber of commerce.

•

SIDNEY S. KULICK, New York exchange manager for PRC, is observing his birthday and 15th wedding anniversary today.

•

BOYD FRY, manager of Loew's Grand, Atlanta, has entered the Navy as an ensign. WILLIAM C. AIKEN succeeds him.

•

ROBERT STEINBERG, 20th-Fox New Haven exchange manager, is recovering from an operation at Grace Hospital in that city.

•

HARRY FISHMAN, operator of the Fairfield, Conn., Community Theatre, and MRS. FISHMAN will leave soon for a vacation in Florida.

•

WALT DONAHUE, Columbia's Philadelphia office manager, has recovered from a recent illness.

•

EDGAR MOSS, 20th-Fox district manager in Philadelphia, is in the hospital for a checkup.

•

CHARLES RICH, Warner Cleveland branch manager, is now visiting Indianapolis and Cincinnati.

•

ROGER MAHAN, operator of the Waterbury, Conn., Plaza Theatre, is on sick leave.

•

ROBERT SCHWARTZ of the Thompsonville, Conn., Park Theatre is vacationing in Miami.

•

CORP. JOSEPH CALECHMAN, formerly of the New Haven Howard Theatre, has arrived in Italy.

•

JAY EMANUEL, Philadelphia independent circuit operator, is in Florida.

•

JOE ROSSHEIM, theatre operator in Pennsylvania, is in Florida.

DAVID ROSE, Paramount's managing director in Great Britain, is expected here from the Coast on Monday.

•

BILL ROSENOW, Paramount salesman in Rochester, and CHARLES HARTER, Columbia booking manager, were recently given a farewell party by the Buffalo Variety Club on entering service.

•

CAPT. MONROE GREENTHAL, chief of the films branch of the Army's industrial service division, now has headquarters at the War Activities Committee offices here.

•

OTTO BOLLE, 20th-Fox representative in Australasia and South Africa, has arrived in Sydney, where he will have headquarters.

•

E. T. GOMERSALL, Universal sales executive, will be in Philadelphia today and in Cleveland tomorrow.

•

LT. COL. HAL ROACH is expected in New York tomorrow from Washington.

•

HARRY FEINSTEIN, Warner Circuit film buyer for the Pittsburgh zone, is in New York for a few days.

•

GLADYS BELL, house official of the Cincinnati Variety Club, is recovering from an operation.

•

MAURICE WHITE, general manager of United Theatres in Cincinnati, is in New York on business.

•

EUGENE KONCZAKOWSKI, Buffalo circuit operator, has been honorably discharged from the Army.

•

GERALD GEORGE of National Theatre Supply, Buffalo, has entered the Maritime Service.

•

WILLIAM TISHKOFF, having disposed of his Webster Theatre, Rochester, will leave for California.

•

DEWEY MICHAELS, Buffalo theatre owner, will leave for Florida at the weekend.

•

GEORGE and DOROTHY GAMMELL, Buffalo circuit operators, have left for Miami for a vacation.

•

SYLVIA WALLACE, Hollywood editor of *Modern Screen*, is in New York for three weeks.

•

WILLIAM K. JENKINS, of Lucas & Jenkins circuit, Atlanta, is in town.

•

NORMAN TAUROG, M-G-M producer, will leave for the Coast Saturday.

•

SAM GALLANTY, Columbia district sales manager, is in Cincinnati.

'Our Time' N. Y. Opening

Warner Bros.' "In Our Time" will have its first public showing in New York on Friday, Feb. 11, at the Strand.

Berg Joins Condon

Louis Berg, chief feature publicity writer for 20th-Fox here, has resigned to join Richard Condon, Inc., press agency.

IATSE Talks Over 'Inside' Business

CINCINNATI, Jan. 26.—The IATSE executive board continued its meetings here today at the Netherland Plaza, with Richard F. Walsh, international president, of New York, presiding. The meeting, which is closed to the press, is being confined largely to discussions of "inside" union matters, presumably the Chicago attack on members on local officials, and the New York extort case and other pending court matters, it was learned.

Attending, in addition to Walsh, are: William P. Raoul, assistant international president; Louis Krouse, New York, secretary-treasurer; and vice-presidents Harlon Holman, Cleveland; William P. Covert, Toronto; Floyd M. Billingsley, San Francisco; James J. Brenna, Ramsey, N. J.; Roger W. Kennedy, Detroit; Felix D. Snow, Kansas City, and Carl G. Cooper, Hollywood.

Others are: George W. Brayfield, O. M. Jacobson, Frank Sticklipg, E. J. Miller, Steve B. Newman, John B. Fitzgerald, Albert S. Johnston, Lawrence Katz, E. J. Brock, T. V. Greene, J. D. Basson, W. G. Scanlon, Frank Olsen, T. J. Shea, John H. Spearing and R. E. Morris, union representatives.

Cunningham to Coast OWI, Replacing Bell

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Ulric Bell resigned today as administrator of the Hollywood office of the overseas division of the Office of War Information effective Feb. 1, to become director of the Hollywood office of the Free World Association, a group which hopes to achieve a unity of world nations.

William S. Cunningham, assistant to Bell for the past year, succeeds him. The latter told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the change has no connection with the Elmer Davis-Robert Sherwood OWI personnel firing differences reported this week from Washington nor the recently announced incorporation of the OWI in the State Department.

Studio Unions Back Roosevelt 4th Term

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—The executive council of the Conference of Studio Unions, in session here, has wired William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, at Washington, urging him to take the initiative on behalf of labor in a movement to draft President Roosevelt for a fourth term.

The council also approved a national labor draft as recommended in the President's recent message to Congress.

Fashion Show Postponed

A fashion preview of Ginger Rogers' costumes as worn in "Lady in the Dark," originally scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 5, at the Women's Military Service Club here, has been postponed to Feb. 13, Paramount has announced.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

'Kings of Ring' Opens To Favorable Grosses

Fight fans will have a veritable feast of fisticuffs in "Kings of the Ring," a comprehensive feature-length record of boxing's climactic moments, historic bouts of the sport's Golden Age. The champions are all here, starting from that day in 1907 when Tommy Burns and Bill Squires squared off in one of the first fights to be filmed, when thin gloves barely concealed iron fists and boxers met surreptitiously with one eye on their opponent and the other on the cops, and it runs to the fabulous Dempsey and the peerless Louis bouts.

Nat Fleischer, editor of *Ring Magazine,* has written and spoken the narration, assisted by Thornton Fisher and Bill Stern. Fleischer sentimentally recalls the famous Tunney long-count as the slow-motion camera lingers on this dramatic scene, adding further fuel to the still smouldering controversy. Martin J. Lewis edited and Jack Rieger was director of photography. The film is now playing on Broadway to favorable grosses. It runs 94 minutes and lends itself readily to exploitation for adult audiences. Lewis and Erwin Lesser are the distributors. C. R.

Fly Urges Program Changes for FM Era

RCA will manufacture and sell frequency modulation (FM) home receiving sets as soon as civilian production is resumed, Dr. C. B. Jolliffe, chief engineer of RCA's Victor division, declared at a meeting of FM Broadcasters at the Hotel Commodore here yesterday.

James L. Fly, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, told the radio men that frequency modulation is now on the threshold of as tremendous a development as standard broadcasting was 20 years ago and urged them to start planning program developments to meet the new challenge.

"To capture anything approaching the benefits of FM," he declared, "you must have high fidelity, and high fidelity is not needed to transmit the cheap emotional droolery of soap operas or to get the odds on the seventh race at Hialeah."

Television Seen As Aiding World Peace

Television, permitted to develop internationally and competitively, holds promise of being the "ambassador of good will" needed to win an enduring peace among nations, Paul Raibourn, president of Television Productions, and in charge of television for Paramount, told a meeting of the American Television Society at the Hotel Capitol here this week.

Norman H. Waters, president of ATS, told the meeting that television should be perfect technically before it is offered to the public.

Both stressed the fact that television must be permitted to develop without government restrictions. Waters decried the favoring of frequency modulation both by the radio industry and the FCC over television, stating that all reasons for the delay in television revolve around financing and not public lack of interest.

Nominate Films in Academy Contest

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Following a preliminary screening of short subjects at which members of the short subjects branch of the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences acted as judges, the following pictures have been officially nominated for the final judging, Feb. 15, at the Marquis.

Cartoons: Col., Dave Fleischer, "Imagination"; M-G-M, Fred Quimby, "Yankee Doodle Mouse"; Para., George Pal, "The Five Hundred Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins"; RKO-Walt Disney, "Reason and Emotion"; Univ., Walter Lantz, "The Dizzy Acrobat"; WB, Leon Schlesinger, "Greetings, Bait."

One-reel: Col.-Ralph Staub, "Hollywood in Uniform"; M-G-M, Pete Smith, "Seeing Hands"; Para., Grantland Rice, "Amphibious Fighters"; 20th-Fox, Edmund Reek, "Champions Carry On"; WB, Gordon Hollingshead, "Cavalcade of Dance with Veloz and Yolanda."

Two-reel: M-G-M, Jerry Bresler, "Heavenly Music"; Para., Walter MacEwen, "Mardi-Gras"; RKO, Fred Ullman, "Letter to a Hero"; WB, Gordon Hollingshead, "Women at War."

Features Nominated

The following productions have been nominated for the Black-and-White and Color Art Direction awards: *Black-and-White* — "Five Graves to Cairo," "So Proudly We Hail," Para.; "Flight for Freedom," RKO-Radio; "Madame Curie," "The Human Comedy," M-G-M; "Mission to Moscow," "Air Force," "Casablanca," "Sahara," WB; "North Star," Samuel Goldwyn; "The Song of Bernadette," 20th-Fox, and "Corvette K-225," Universal.

Color—"DuBarry Was a Lady," "Thousands Cheer," "Lassie Come Home," M-G-M; "For Whom the Bell Tolls," Para.; "The Gang's All Here," "Heaven Can Wait," "Hello, Frisco, Hello," 20th-Fox; "Phantom of the Opera," Univ., and "This Is the Army," WB.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has appointed Howard Estabrook chairman of the committee on documentary awards, assisted by Edward Dmytryk, William Dozier, James Wong Howe, Joris Ivens, Nunally Johnson, Edward G. Robinson, Rosalind Russell, Sid Solow and Frank Tuttle. Hollywood studios have for the first time been invited to enter films in this category

Hesse Takes Over WB Connecticut Area

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 26.—John Hesse, manager of the Roger Sherman here for the past nine years, has been named Warner Theatres' district manager for Southern Connecticut. He succeeds Carlyle G. Barrett, who died last week.

Edgar Lynch, former manager of the Warner in Bridgeport succeeds Hesse at the Roger Sherman, and Vincent Palmeri, of the Bridgeport Merritt, replaces Lynch at the Warner.

Coast Job for Rubiner

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Monroe Rubiner, former Warner Midwest field representative, is now a member of the photographic division of Alex Evelove's publicity staff at the studio.

Films May Be on Hemisphere Agenda

WASHHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Representatives of all American republics may meet here next September to discuss and prepare for readjustment of hemisphere industry and trade from war to peace, it was learned recently, and films may be on the agenda.

A proposal for the meeting has been sent to the various governments by the Pan-American union, and they are being asked also what subjects should be discussed. (Motion pictures have played a prominent part in our war-time program for closer cohesion of the American republics.)

There is a definite move afoot to provide for close post-war collaboration of the countries in this hemisphere, along the line of the cooperation which has been achieved for the war program, largely through the activities of the coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, which has a large film section.

While the proposal to hold the conference next September is in no sense due to any conviction that the war will be over by then, it is believed that by that time a picture of the futuer may have been drawn which will permit intelligent planning for the post-war period.

Circuit Operators Are Guests of 20th-Fox

A large group of circuit operators were guests yesterday of Spyros Skouras, Tom Connors and other 20th-Fox executives at a luncheon at the 21 Club here. They later attended a home-office screening of the company's new film "The Sullivans."

The following circuit executives attended:

I. J. Hoffman, John Fitzgibbons, Jules Rubens, Ted Schlanger, Charles Skouras, S. Sturdivant, R. Ricketson, N. Dipson, Maury White, Charles Krebs, Harry Katz, Milton Mooney, J. Real Neth, Ed Fay, Bob O'Donnell, E. C. Grainger, Vance Minton, E. J. Fahey, Bob Rhodes.

Also, John Woodward, E. Hiehle, J. Walsh, Dick Kearney, Herb Kohn, John Harris, Ralph Talbot, Ralph Branton, Frank Buehler, Nate Goldstein, Morris Mechanic, Bill Jenkins, T. O. Tabor, Meyer Schine, Louis Schine, George Lynch, Harry Zeitz, Jack Shea, Joe Egan, Clayton Bond, James Coston and John Nolan.

Partington Rites To Be Held Today

Funeral services will be held here at noon today at Frank E. Campbell's Funeral Church, Madison Ave. and 81st St., for John Allan Partington, Fanchon & Marco vice-president and general manager, and one of the operating heads of the Roxy Theatre. Interment will be at Ferncliff, Ardsley-on-Hudson, N. Y.

Partington died of a heart attack at his home here on Tuesday at the age of 54. Both the New York Fanchon & Marco and Roxy Theatre offices will close at 11 a.m. today and remain closed all day.

Theatre Builder Dies

Robert M. Dunn, 74, who supervised the construction of the Ziegfeld Theatre, Madison Square Garden and many other New York buildings, died early this week of a heart ailment at the Beekman Hospital here.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 26

SAMUEL STEVE BROIDY, Monogram general sales manager, will leave shortly for Chicago to preside at a meeting on Feb. 5 and 6, opening the sales drive in honor of president W. Ray Johnston's 30th anniversary. Johnston will preside at a New York sales meeting on Feb. 12 and 13.

•

Chairman Henry Ginsberg of the War Finance Committee, announced yesterday that the Hal Roach Studio leads independents here with purchases of $250,000 in 4th War Loan bonds. Paramount employes have purchased $248,815 worth. Y. Frank Freeman and Cecil B. DeMille having bought $35,000 worth between them. Monogram employes have purchased $10,000 in bonds. W. G. Craig, chairman of the M-G-M studio war finance committee, has announced purchases of $1,000,000 worth of bonds over and above employes' purchases.

•

Sponsors of a projected Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences' foundation plan to meet in two weeks to discuss its formation. Other industry leaders have been invited to participate in discussions on its possible financing through endowments and to set up a governing body, MOTION PICTURE DAILY has learned.

•

Arguments on the Screen Actors Guild demurrer to Warners' damage suit scheduled for today in Superior Court, Los Angeles, have been continued to Feb. 9.

•

"Duel," an original by Sidney Harmon and Melvyn Levy, has been purchased by Vanguard and assigned to Dore Schary as his second production.

•

RKO has bought a share of M-G-M's contract with Laraine Day. The four-year deal calls for her to do two RKO pictures annually.

•

Monogram today added to its schedule, for production by Lindsley Parsons, the comedy "Soldier, Bride and Baby."

•

Republic has announced two Roy Rogers' productions, "Roll Along Prairie Moon" and "Montana"; Harry Grey produces.

•

Warners has confirmed "Objective, Burma," with Jerry Wald producing, Raoul Walsh directing, and Errol Flynn starred.

•

Republic today signed Don H. Brown, formerly with Universal, to an associate producer contract.

•

Monogram has bought "Face of Marble," an original.

•

Adrian Roard today rejoined 20th Century-Fox as story adviser.

•

M-G-M has announced "Son of Lassie" with Sam Marx producing.

'The Sign' Picks 'Song'

"The Song of Bernadette," 20th-Fox, which opened here yesterday, has received the second annual "picture of the year" award from *The Sign,* national Catholic magazine.

The next Warner pict



IT IS THIS KIND

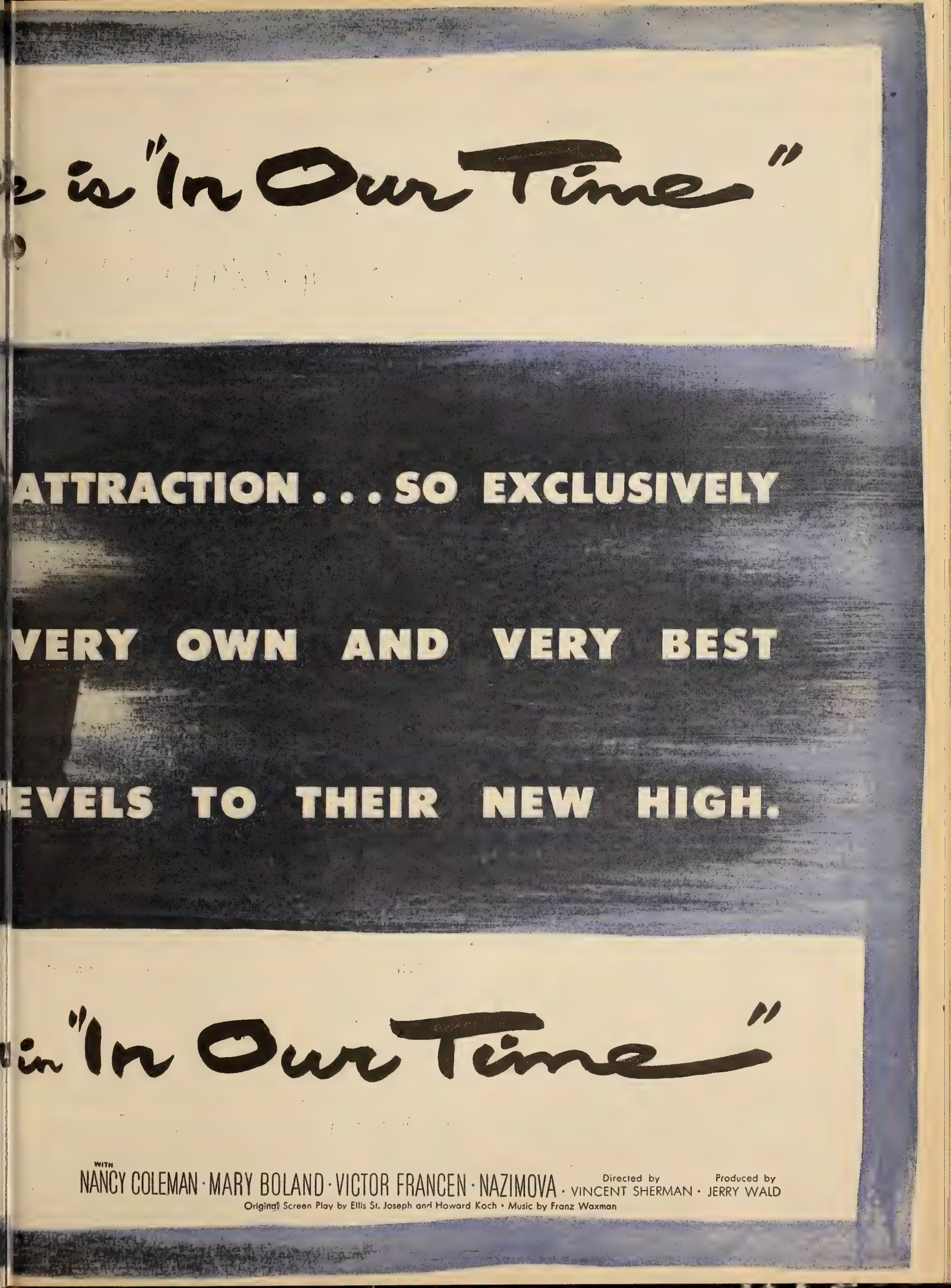
WARNER BROS.

...THAT IS HOLDING THEATR

Ida Lupino and Paul Henr

Hail to "The Best Actress of 1943!"

(VOTED BY THE NEW YORK FILM CRITICS)


e is "In Our Time"
ATTRACTION . . . SO EXCLUSIVELY
VERY OWN AND VERY BEST
EVELS TO THEIR NEW HIGH.
in "In Our Time"
WITH
NANCY COLEMAN · MARY BOLAND · VICTOR FRANCEN · NAZIMOVA
Directed by VINCENT SHERMAN · Produced by JERRY WALD
Original Screen Play by Ellis St. Joseph and Howard Koch • Music by Franz Waxman

40 in 1944-45 from RKO, Four by Goetz, Spitz, Says Depinet

(*Continued from page 1*)

product to be made by International Pictures, in which William Goetz and Leo Spitz are partners.

"The deal concluded between RKO and International covers only four specific pictures: "Casanova Brown," "Belle of the Yukon," "Once Off Guard" and "It's a Pleasure," Depinet declared. "They will be released during 1944-45," he added. The number was not specified in the company's announcement when the deal was closed late last week. The four pictures will be made on the Samuel Goldwyn lot, according to Depinet.

The 1944-45 releases contemplated will be released in seven blocks of five pictures each, plus the four from International and several from Samuel Goldwyn and Walt Disney, "bringing the total to around 40," said Depinet.

Talks with Disney, Goldwyn

While on the Coast, Depinet held conferences with Goldwyn and Disney on their plans. Goldwyn's present plans include "Up in Arms," with Danny Kaye; the new Bob Hope film, "Treasure Chest," and a second with Danny Kaye, "Wonder Man." Depinet also revealed that the new Disney picture, "Three Caballeros," will be ready for late Spring or early Summer.

While at the Coast studios Depinet saw five recently completed RKO films: "Days of Glory," "Show Business," "Marine Raiders," "Action in Arabia" and "Seven Days Ashore." Four will be ready to go into production in February, Depinet said. They include a second Frank Sinatra picture, "I Married the Navy," a Fibber McGee and Molly film, "Elizabeth Kenny" and "None But the Lonely Heart." "Gibson Girl," starring Ginger Rogers, will go into production on March 1. All these pictures will be released between now and Sept. 15.

Depinet said that no decision has yet been reached on a contemplated RKO national network radio program which would feature broadcasts from the RKO studio.

Loew Meeting March 14

Loew's annual stockholders meeting, usually held during February in previous years, has been set for March 14.

Loew Houses Sell 41,000 'E' Bonds

Loew's, Inc., yesterday reported sales of 41,000 "E" bonds through Jan. 23 in Loew New York theatres and through Jan. 19 in Loew out-of-town houses. Total maturity value of the bond sales is $3,198,561.

Home office employes of Loew's Theatres, M-G-M and Loew's Station WHN here will participate in a 4th War Loan rally on Wednesday, Feb. 2, Joseph H. Vogel, Loew's drive chairman, announced yesterday. The company will contribute $1,000 in "E" bonds as prizes for an employes' contest.

Special Bond Week Will Honor Gen. Eisenhower

(*Continued from page 1*)

designated 200 cities as the focal points of this final offensive.

"Showmen are urged to dig deep into their bag of tricks, to cull from their wide experience, to make every contact, to exert their energies to the fullest in this last grand effort," Skouras said.

Some "E" activities suggested are: An "E" Week parade supported by military units, a display of combat material, prepared editorials, an "invasion" of the community by "E" forces in a door-to-door and house-to-house roundup, "E" seats honoring local service men, "E" stencils on sidewalks and buildings, enlarged Eisenhower photos in key spots, church tributes to Eisenhower, and "E" Week proclamations.

It was planned to have General Eisenhower make a special trailer in which he would talk directly to the audiences, but time limitations made this impossible. However, the script of his proposed talk will be made available to showmen for local promotions.

Bondardiers Proving To Be Super Salesmen

From numerous parts of the country are reported large sales run up by the "Bondardier" teams of Hollywood stars making public appearances and Bond-buying pleas.

Shortly after an explosion at the Carnegie Steel plant in South Chicago had killed four workmen and injured 12, Jinx Falkenburg and John Garfield sold $300,000 worth of bonds. In a second meeting for white collar workers they raised $10,000. From 6,000 war workers at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Park Ridge, they accounted for $280,000 in "E" bonds.

In Quincy, Mass., Frances Dee and Alan Marshall sold $200,000 worth of bonds at a dinner sponsored by retail merchants.

Oklahoma City has reported that Red Skelton garnered $6,865,000 there with appearances at rallies and industrial plants. A bond luncheon accounted for $1,365,000 of the total. Combined bond sales for rallies in the Kelso and Longview school auditoriums at Aberdeen, Wash., amounted to $53,000, chairman Eddie Mitchell reported. Two rallies in Eugene brought sales of $24,000.

Minnesota Premieres Jump from 46 to 151

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 26. — John J. Friedl, Northwest chairman for the 4th War Loan drive, has announced that 151 bond premieres had been set for Minnesota as compared to 46 in the last bond drive. "Every theatre in the state is participating actively with the seating chart idea," Friedl said. "Special displays have been set in practically every theatre for the 'Bond for Every Seat' drive. To date 140 theatres have been made bond issuing agents."

'Free Movie Day' in New York Feb. 7

Monday, Feb. 7, has been set as "Free Movie Day" for the 600 houses in the New York metropolitan area, but no advance advertising will be given the fact that buyers of "E" bonds will be admitted free. Among special "Free Day" materials available at National Screen are mats of ad slugs and a 30x40 in red, white and blue, according to Edward L. Alperson, chairman of the Metropolitan New York committee.

Winninger-Rambeau Sale

PALM SPRINGS, Cal., Jan. 26.— Charles Winninger and Marjory Rambeau, heading a Bond Battalion, netted a total of $72,500 in 4th War Loan bonds here this week. A stop at Redlands brought $40,000.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war and campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

TED JONES, Yucca Theatre, Roswell, N. M.
BURGESS LEE WALTMON, Princess Theatre, Columbus, Miss.
GEORGE H. MCQUINN, State Theatre, Falls Church, Va.
LAWRENCE D. LIBBY, State Theatre, Waterville, Me.
JOE EDMONDSON, Carolina Theatre, Columbia, S. C.
PAUL CORNWELL, Rialto Theatre, Clinton, Okla.
WALTON B. HARMON, Darlton Theatre, Pawtucket, R. I.
A. T. LEHMANN, State Theatre, Middletown, N. Y.
F. A. ROGERS, Macon Theatre, Tuskegee, Ala.
HARRY S. KING, Sequoia Theatre, Mill Valley, Cal.
HARRY M. ROODA, Calumet Theatre, Hammond, Ind.
ARTHUR GROOM, Loew's State, Memphis.
CHARLES D. WHITESIDE, Whiteside Theatre, Corvallis, Ore.
JAMES E. TIBBETTS, Loew's State, Boston.
ARTHUR LAKE, Stadium Theatre, Staten Island, N. Y.
WALTER A. YOUNG, Lyric Theatre, Honesdale, Pa.

Theatres Get Space In Chicago Papers

(*Continued from page 1*)

amusement department, points out that theatres are being asked not to exceed their 1943 space. In spite of a 30,000 increase in daily circulation with its accompanying heavier consumption of newsprint, the *Herald and American* is not reducing its biggest feature—two full amusement pages each day and four pages on Sunday. In fact, all sizes of ads are being accepted, said Walter L. Amann, manager of amusements.

From Dec. 23 to Jan. 3, the *Daily News* was in a state of advertising moratorium, no commercial advertising being published other than that of motion picture theatres, churches and death notices. The newsprint saving thus effected permits Manager Charles Rehfeld to continue holding "open house" on motion picture advertising.

While the plaint goes forth from Marshall Field's new morning *Sun* that it is short on newsprint, all normal orders from motion picture theatres are being honored. Limitations or reductions on practically all other major display and classified advertising have become compulsory policies of the Chicago dailies in the wake of the rationing of newspaper stock.

Vancouver Cuts Ads 15%

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 26.—In line with the paper-conservation trend of Canadian newspapers, the *Vancouver Province* has notified theatre companies of a 15 percent reduction in contracted space based on advertising lineage used from month to month last year, applicable to all advertisers.

'Crime Doctor' Tops Lagging Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 26.—Business tapered off at box offices here this week. Only house hitting above average was the Senator, which promised $3,600 on "Return of the Vampire" and "Crime Doctor's Strangest Case."

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 25-28:

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,000)
"What a Woman" (Col.)
HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,600)
"Government Girl" (RKO)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $20,000)
"Riding High" (Para.)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Penn. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $3,000)
"Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $3,600. (Average: $3,200)
"Jack London" (UA)
STANLEY—(3,800) (35c-50c-75c). On stage: 6 days of vaudeville, including Count Basie's orchestra. Gross: $22,700. (Average: $22,700)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 4th week, moveover after two weeks at the Penn. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,200)

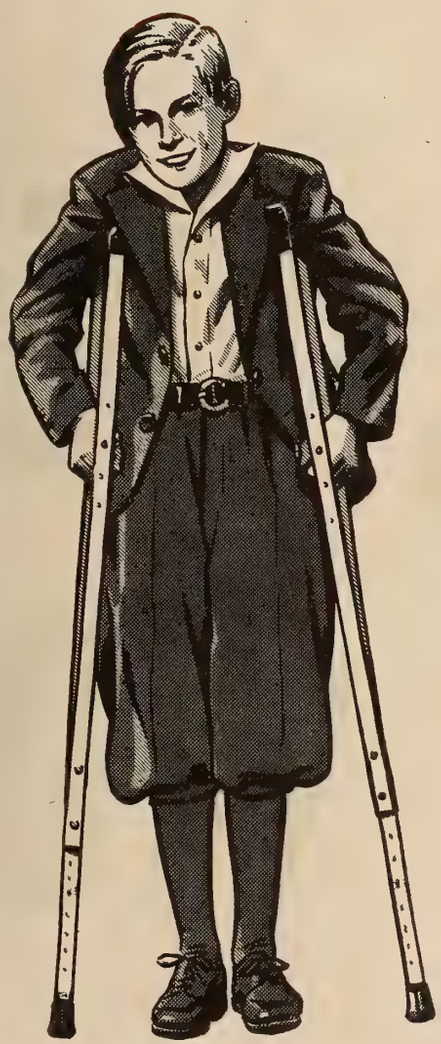
Cleveland Yields Big $26,000 to 'Curie'

CLEVELAND, Jan. 26.—"Madame Curie" opened at Loew's State here, pointing to an excellent $26,000. "No Time for Love," in its second week on a moveover at Loew's Stillman, is heading for $13,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 26:

"Government Girl" (RKO)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $8,500)
"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000 (Average: $17,500)
"Guadalcanal Diary" (20th-Fox)
WARNERS LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $3,000)
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,500)
"Son of Dracula" (Univ.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: Jan Savitt orchestra and Phil Regan. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $22,000)
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $17,500)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $9,500)

YOU ARE HELPING TO MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE!





FORWARD MARCH OF DIMES!

The Drive Is On!

Let the smile on this boy's face be your inspiration. This year's needs are greater than ever, and happily the stirring Greer Garson trailer is the best yet! Be sure to use it. It speaks tenderly from the heart. When all the wonderful industry drives are entered on the records let it be said that we remembered our stricken young.

Columbia's

NONE SHA

IN ITS NEV

31-CITY WOR

is outgr

A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT!
FOURTH WAR LOAN AND
REMEMBER MARCH OF DIMES!

ESCAPE

ENGLAND

D PREMIERE

sing

SAHARA!

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Romance of the Seven Seas

John **WAYNE** · Susan **HAYWARD**

THE FIGHTING SEABEES

A REPUBLIC PICTURE




with
DENNIS
O'KEEFE
and
WILLIAM FRAWLEY
LEONID KINSKEY
J. M. KERRIGAN
GRANT WITHERS
EDWARD LUDWIG—Director
Second Unit Directed by
HOWARD LYDECKER
Screenplay by Borden Chase and
Aeneas MacKenzie
Original Story by Borden Chase

Average for Top Plays Hits $100,000 Each

(*Continued from page* 1)

Century-Fox for the rights to the Army Air Force play, "Winged Victory." Purchase prices of play rights by film companies in 1943 set an all-time over-all high. Previous high was the purchase of 22 plays for $2,105,000 by film companies in 1941. The total for 1942 was $1,454,000 for 19 plays, and the dialogue rights to a 20th. Average outright payment for the 18 top plays bought in 1943 was about $101,000.

'Junior Miss' Sought

Mary Pickford's offer for "Junior Miss" will probably result in a deal being concluded on the basis of $355,000 plus a percentage, it is understood.

One high price paid by a film company for rights to a play during the year was the $350,000 percentage deal made by Lester Cowan for the rights to "Tomorrow the World." Another was the $265,000 paid by 20th Century-Fox for "Something for the Boys."

Of the 18 top plays sold through the Dramatists' Guild during the year, 20th Century-Fox and Warner Bros. each bought four, with M-G-M taking three. Besides "Something for the Boys," 20th Century-Fox purchased "The Naked Genius," "There Shall Be No Night" and "The Russian People." Warners bought "Dark Eyes" and "The Doughgirls," each for a reported $250,000, and "Janie" and "The Connecticut Yankee." M-G-M bought "The Pirate," "Sons and Soldiers" and "Hold On to Your Hats." Columbia took "The Land Is Bright" and "Counter-Attack." Universal obtained "Uncle Harry," Samuel Goldwyn purchased "Those Endearing Young Charms," and Gregory Ratoff Productions purchased the rights to "Bandwagon."

"One World" Brings $250,000

High-priced book purchases made by film companies during the year included the purchase by 20th Century-Fox of "One World," by Wendell L. Willkie, for $100,000 plus a percentage which will bring the figure to an estimated $250,000; Warner's purchase of "Saratoga Trunk" by Edna Ferber for $175,000; the $100,000 paid by the same company for Joseph E. Davies' "Mission to Moscow"; the $100,000 each paid by M-G-M for Anna Seghers' "The Seventh Cross," and for Capt. Ted Lawson's "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo"; and the same figure paid by 20th Century-Fox for A. J. Cronin's "The Keys to the Kingdom." RKO paid $80,000 for "The Robe," 20th Century-Fox, $75,000 for "The Song of Bernadette," and Paramount, $65,000 for "Victoria Grandolet."

Five Companies Plan Extra Deductions

M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, Columbia and RKO, have set up machinery by which employees may buy extra 4th War Loan bonds on a payroll deduction system. This bond sale routine will augment the payroll deduction system that has been in effect for some time. Employees will be buying one regular payroll bond plus an extra one for the current drive. The plan is being considered by other firms.

$5 'Raise' Seen For N.Y. Operators

(*Continued from page* 1)

cleaning and making changes on projection equipment, giving each man over $5 a week in additional wages.

Considerable interest is evinced in the plan since it would presumably establish a precedent for similar demands by IATSE projectionist locals throughout the country where similar situations exist, as well as on the part of other industry unions to gain wage adjustments to meet increased costs of living. The WLB is understood to have already rejected one version of the plan submitted recently, but a revised version is now pending before it.

The arrangement will in no way alter present Altec service contracts with the theatres.

Exhibitors to Honor Skouras' Bond Work

(*Continued from page* 1)

day. It is expected to ad impetus to the bond drive.

Members of the committee include Edward L. Alperson, chairman, ticket committee; Don Jacocks, chairman, 4th War Loan activity; David Weinstock, chairman, arrangements committee; Hal Horne, chairman, publicity committee, and Fred Schwartz, Sam Rinzler, William White, Sam Strassbourg, Julius Joelson, Leo Brecher, Harry Loewenstein, Joe Seider, Charles Moskowitz, Joseph Vogel, Norman Elson, Lee Rosenblatt, Max Cohen, Frank Moscate, Meyer Schine and Dan Michalove as the general committee.

Schenck Finds Rise In 'Dimes' Returns Uniform in U. S.

(*Continued from page* 1)

headquarters from Jack Kirsch, Jules Rubens, and John Balaban, in the Illinois area, indicate that collections there will run from 50 to 75 per cent greater than last year.

A. H. Blank, state chairman for Iowa and Nebraska, advised that first returns are phenomenal. In Davenport, Ia., $5,123 was collected during the entre seven day drive in 1943; the first four days this year amount to $6,945. Last year the Paramount, Cedar Rapids, collected $321 against $1,237 in the four days in 1944.

Kansas 50% Ahead

Elmer C. Rhoden, Kansas chairman, says contributions in his area are 50 per cent ahead of 1943, while M. J. Mullin, New England chairman, reports a similar increase. Northern California figures announced by chairman George M. Mann are far in excess of previous campaigns. Nine Brandt theatres in metropolitan New York report $6,570 during the first four days of the drive, compared with $3,100 last year. The Century circuit in Brooklyn and Long Island collected $2,913 on the first day. Last year the total was $1,286.

Collections in Loew's Theatres in New York and throughout the country continue at a record pace. The total for the first six days stands at $267,781 against $194,488 for a similar period in 1943. Already the circuit has passed last year's drive total of $219,708.

TRADE SHOWING

PARAMOUNT'S

"LADY IN THE DARK"

In Technicolor

starring

GINGER ROGERS · RAY MILLAND

WARNER BAXTER · JON HALL

with MISCHA AUER

A MITCHELL LEISEN PRODUCTION

Directed by MITCHELL LEISEN

• • •

10:45 a. m. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd

NORMANDIE THEATRE

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

A Bond for Every Seat!

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

VOL. 55. NO. 20 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1944 TEN CENTS

12 Leaders to Tour U.S. to Aid Bond Drive

Will Correlate Efforts of Field Forces

Twelve industry executives have been named as a special 4th War Loan campaign committee to tour the country to establish closer personal contact with the industry drive workers in the field, in order that the latter and the national campaign committee "may have the fullest benefits of one another's interest, cooperation and association."

Charles P. Skouras, industry campaign chairman, yesterday explained that each of the 12 will tour assigned territories and all will blanket the entire country, meeting with exhibitors, industry state chairmen, U. S. Treasury state chairmen and WAC public relations chairmen.

Membership of the committee fol-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Mexico Tightens Film Censorship

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 27.—A commission of three, representing Ministries of the Interior and Public Education and the Association of Mexican M. P. Producers, has been formed to further improvements in the moral tone of pictures in this country.

The organization is in accord with the recently enacted law requiring greater vigilance over pictures by both government and the industry. The object is to render best possible production of films and insure high moral standards. All scripts must be surveyed by the commission and approved by it before production, thus doing away with any possible scrapping of pictures for moral reasons.

Over 1,400 RKO-ites In Armed Services

Former RKO and affiliated company employes now serving in the armed forces total in excess of 1,400, including 15 women. Fifteen have been killed in action, nine have been wounded and one is a prisoner of war.

One former employe is Lieutenant

(*Continued on page 7*)

Stars in Capital For Birthday Ball; Collections Soar

Six screen stars have already arrived in Washington to attend the President's Birthday Ball tomorrow and to participate in other festivities climaxing the March of Dimes 1944 campaign, the "Dimes" committee here reported yesterday. The players are: Red Skelton, John Garfield, Lucille Ball, Walter Pidgeon, Jose Iturbi, Brian Donlevy and Maria Montez. Additional names will be announced by the Hollywood Victory Committee today.

The stars will broadcast at 12:30 P.M. today. At 7 P.M. they will attend a banquet at the Mayflower Hotel. Skelton will be master of ceremonies. At 11:45 P.M. they will make personal appearances at Loew's Capitol and Warner Bros. Earle theatres.

Tomorrow the stars will attend celebrations at the Shoreham, Willard, Statler, Mayflower, Wardman Park and Washington hotels. NBC, Columbia, Blue and Mutual will broadcast the celebrations at 11:15 P.M.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Republic Adds Four To Advisory Group

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27.—Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the board of directors of Republic Pictures, has announced here the addition of four to the studio's new advisory production committee, now composed of Al Wilson, who succeeded M. J. Seigel as studio production chief; Armand Schaefer, William O'Sullivan, Howard Sheehan and Charles Looten.

The four additions are: Russell Kimball, studio art chief; Walter Scharf, music head; Howard Lydecker, sound chief; Len Boyd, studio publicity head, and Harry Engel, newly signed "co-ordinator of radio."

EXHIBITORS GIVEN DECREE BY CLARK

Clark Said to Have Concluded Majors Were 'Pushed' to Limit at This Time; Owners Get Several Weeks to Study Decree

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The first big hurdle in the negotiation of a new consent decree has been surmounted and the distributors today temporarily passed out of the scene as Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark sent to exhibitor organizations copies of the proposals submitted to him on Tuesday by representatives of the five decree signatory companies.



Tom C. Clark

For the next several weeks exhibitors will have their turn to lay before Department of Justice officials their views as to what a revised decree must provide to be satisfactory to theatre owners.

A series of meetings with representatives of various exhibitor groups probably will be arranged by Clark next month. He said today that no immediate move would be made and that exhibitors will be given some time in which to study the document before they are called to Washington.

Quick turning over of the proposals to the theatre men was seen here as indicating that Clark and his Department of Justice associates had concluded that they had pushed the five distributors to the maximum and could secure no more by further pressure.

The next move will be to secure and correlate the views of exhibitors and if a study of those views shows the need, Clark will go back to the distributors for further exploration of the possibilities of providing further relief.

Chicago Meeting to See Draft

The majors' decree proposals, some 35 pages, will be taken to Chicago by Abram F. Myers, chairman of Allied States, over the weekend for discussion at the meeting next week of representatives of Allied, the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, Independent Exhibitors of New England, Allied of Iowa-Nebraska, the MPTO of Viriginia, and North Central and Allied of the Northwest, both of Minneapolis. Other groups also may attend, Myers said here today.

Allied will be represented at the conference, which was called by the organization for a joint exhibitor study of the decree, by its executive committee, consisting of M. A. Rosenberg, H. A. Cole, Sidney E. Samuelson, Martin G. Smith, Jack Kirsch, Roy E. Harrold, W. L. Ainsworth and Myers.

Hugh Bruen, Rotus Harvey and Robert Poole, executives of the Pacific

(*Continued on page 7*)

U.A. Studies Shifts In Top Authority

A re-defining of executive authority of several United Artists top executives is being studied at a series of meetings of the company's board of directors here this week, it was reliably reported yesterday. The discussions are said to center around an extension of the duties of Gradwell L. Sears to all branches of company

(*Continued on page 6*)

1c on 5c Tax Assured as Joint Conference Drops House Proposal

Washington, Jan. 27.—The motion picture industry won its fight for a minimum increase in the admission tax today when House and Senate conferees on the new revenue bill agreed to accept the Senate provision for a rate of one cent on each five or major fraction thereof.

The action, which killed the House proposal for a tax of two cents on each 10 or fraction thereof, is tantamount to final approval, since conference reports are usually accepted without demur by both Houses.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM GOETZ, president of International Pictures, due to arrive in New York yesterday, was delayed when his plane was grounded in Dallas. He is expected to arrive today.

•

WALTER BRANSON, RKO Western district sales manager, will leave for Omaha tomorrow, where he will meet CHARLES BOASBERG, captain of the NED E. DEPINET Drive, and HARRY GITTLESON. They will visit Des Moines, Kansas City and St. Louis thereafter.

•

O. E. MAXWELL, Northwest representative for Altec Service in charge of the company's Minneapolis branch, this month celebrates his 15th anniversary in the sound equipment field.

•

GEORGE FRASER, former Columbia feature writer, and PAULA WEISS FRASER, his wife, formerly of the Paramount pressbook department, will leave Saturday for the Coast.

•

LT. HAROLD SEIDENBERG, former manager of Warners' Earle, Philadelphia, now stationed in San Francisco, became the father of a son, born earlier this week.

•

FRANK McGUIRE of Paramount's home office art department is the father of a boy, born Wednesday at Mercy Hospital here.

•

EARLE CROTCHETT, Universal Newsreel cameraman and war correspondent, yesterday returned from the South Pacific.

•

SAUL J. KRUGMAN, United Artists Philadelphia salesman, was inducted into the Navy this week.

•

MAURICE N. WOLF, M-G-M New England district manager, is in town from Boston.

Mexican Workers Vote Warners No. 1

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 27.—The Mexican Film Workers Union has selected Warners as the top producing company and Oscar Brooks, general manager for Warners here, as the leading distributor for 1943.

'Miracle' Tops First Week

On the first two days of its second week at the New York Paramount, here, "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" played to 45,460 persons, topping by 3,565 the attendance of the two opening days; in nine days there were 192,793 admissions, according to Jack McInerney of the Paramount. Fourth day gross surpassed the third day by 46 per cent, giving the house the biggest non-holiday Saturday in its history, he said.

OWI Is Speeding Italy Campaign Film

A plan to put "The Road to Rome," full documentary account of the Italian campaign, on theatre screens two weeks after Rome is captured was outlined here this week by Stanton Griffis, chief of the Office of War Information motion picture bureau, on leave from the chairmanship of Paramount's executive committee.

Evidence of official intention to comply with Griffis' desire for speed is seen in the reorganization of the Signal Corps combat coverage and in the new editorial responsibilities of Col. Frank Capra.

On his trip to New York Griffis conferred with Army film officers and motion picture executives.

SAG Clarifies Its Stand on 'Canteen'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27.—In a statement explaining why the Screen Actors Guild objected to the Los Angeles Superior Court granting Warners' two weeks to prepare legal arguments against a Guild demurrer in the Warner suit against the Guild for alleged interference in the production of "Hollywood Canteen," vice-president George Murphy said today that "the SAG has never sought to stop the film's production. The real issue is not whether Warners can make 'Canteen' but whether the Guild has the right to enforce rules governing the conduct of its members," he added.

Mexican 'Academy' Picks Del Rio as Tops

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 27.—Dolores del Rio has been named the best actress in Mexican films in 1943 for her work in "Flor Silvestre" ("Wild Flower") by the Institute of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences. The Institute chose Jorge Negerete as the year's best Mexican actor for his role in "El Penon de las Animas" ("The Hill of the Ringing Bells").

The Mexican Cinematographic Journalists Association has selected "Dona Barbara" as the best picture of 1943. They, too, named Miss del Rio as the best actress, and Emilio Tuero as the best actor. The newsmen also voted Emilio Fernandez the best director.

Army Will Screen 'War Report' Today

The War Department's "War Department Report" will be screened this morning at the Ziegfeld Theatre, 54th St. and 6th Ave., for film industry representatives, the trade press, war plant managers and Army officials.

The film runs 55 minutes. Major Vincent G. Hart, formerly of the film industry, and now Army publications officer here, is in charge of the screening which is being sponsored by Brigadier General Ralph K. Robinson.

15 Firms Receive New York Charters

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 27.—Papers of incorporation for 15 companies have been filed with the Secretary of State. They are:

Jong Young, Inc., producers; directors, Harry G. Fromberg, Samuel H. Fromberg, Louis Stark, New York. Gini-Bun Booking Corp., Manhattan, motion picture agencies; Robert Liederman, Muriel Silverman, New York and Mary Saperstein, Brooklyn, Republic Pictures Puerto Rico Corp., by R. Routledge, C. Aronton and E. L. Baer, New York. Rieger-Simmons Productions, Inc., by Jack Rieger, Ira H. Simmons, Ray Weisen, New York.

Kas Theatre Corp., by Samuel Katz, Jean Metzger, Albert L. Singer, New York. Pic Films, Inc., motion picture films, negatives, machines, etc., by Ruth Kroll, Sylvia Straus, Sylvia Lynette, New York. Utica Theatrical Enterprises, Inc., Utica, by Raymond F. Edick, Utica, Mary Benson, Dorothy Booth. Willmark Cinema Service, Inc., by Mark Bernstein, William Bernstein, Maxwell I. Schultz, New York. Este Productions, Inc., by Sylvia Trop, Bessie Warshawsky, Phyllis Shor, Bellerose, N. Y., Ducker and Feldman, 1775 Broadway, New York. Captain Film Corp., by Murray Frischer, Philip Robbins, Sidney Peilte, New York. Ridge Theatre Corp., Rochester, by Carol M. J. Fenyvessy, Mella R. Fenyvessy, Gerald R. Stoddart, Rochester.

Allied Theatre Ticket Service, agency, by Dorothy Greenberg, Gertrude Rosenberg, Evelyn R. Pickard, New York. Regal Theatre Corp., Brooklyn, by Joe D. Rickover, Shirley Schrier Society Attractions, Ltd., by Leopold V. Eastman, Miriam Heiz. Benjamin F. Foster, New York. Apollo Theatre Corp., by Joel D. Rickover, Hilda Margulies, Shirley Schrier.

Papers of voluntary dissolution were filed by Black Swan Productions, Inc., by Arthur B. Golwin, New York.

Reade Buys Mayfair Land for $1,180,000

Walter Reade, circuit operator and owner of the Mayfair Theatre Building, New York, has purchased the property site for $1,180,000 "in cash," from Thalia W. Malcom, the Chase National Bank and Stephen C. Millett, trustees for the estate of the late Robert E. Westcott.

The building, which has been in possession of Reade and associates for the past 15 years, will have its office and store leases, as well as the theatre lease to Loew's, expiring June 1, 1945. If pending renewal negoiations with Loew's are not successful, Reade plans to demolish the building and erect a business structure.

Smith Leaves M-G-M

Lou Smith, M-G-M Eastern publicity manager for the past year, has resigned, it was announced here yesterday by Howard Dietz, vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity.

Coast Flashes

DAVID O. SELZNICK announced today that Ingrid Bergman's next film for him will be a story based on the life of Sarah Bernhardt: Ben Hecht will do the script and William Dieterle will direct. The picture will go before the cameras early in March.

•

Chairman Henry Ginsberg of the War Finance Committee, announced today that Paramount has purchased $1,000,000 in war bonds. The RKO studio has bought an additional $500,000 bringing its total to the $1,000,000 mark also.

•

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" will be produced by M-G-M, the studio announced yesterday.

•

Lela Rogers, mother of Ginger Rogers, will start as a producer with "Situation Out of Hand," in which Miss Rogers will be starred, for RKO production.

•

Herman Shumlin will report to Warners Feb. 15 to direct the Hal Wallis production "Berlin Hotel, 1944."

Female Instructors Building MGM Staff

To augment depleted field forces, M-G-M has added two more women to the five now instructing new personnel at sales branches. Each has a knowledge of branch operations and all departments.

The two new additions are Janet Segal, formerly assistant manager in the Loew Metropolitan circuit here, and W. Ruth Jones, for many years at M-G-M's St. Louis exchange.

M-G-M instituted its feminine field force one year ago under direction of Alan F. Cummings, who is in charge of branch operations out of the home office. Each of the five already in the field have had experience in the M-G-M home office; they are: Henrietta Klein, Dorothy Donaldson, Roberta Elston, Ann Berger and Jean Harris.

CDVO Film Premiere

Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, City Council president, Newbold Morris, Quincy Howe, radio news analyst and Henry J. Taylor, war correspondent, were invited to last night's premiere of "This Is Worth Fighting For," Civilian Defense Volunteer Office film. CDVO chairman-director Grover A. Whalen presided at the showing, held at the Museum of Modern Art.

'Ice' Gets $301,662

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—"Ice Follies of 1944," closing a four-week engagement at the Arena Saturday, proved major film theatre competition in setting a new record of $301,662 for 29 performances at a $3.42 top. There were 157,000 paid admissions and the 6,000-seat Arena was filled up to 90 per cent capacity for the entire run.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600



THE LATEST MARCH of TIME
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
in Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG
and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Michele MORGAN
Jack HALEY
Frank SINATRA
"Higher and Higher"

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
M-G-M's
KAY KYSER in
'Swing Fever'
Marilyn MAXWELL
William GARGAN
In Person
HOWARD SHELTON
HARRIET HOCTOR
LOUIS JORDAN and his Tympany Five

Merle OBERON • Geo. SANDERS
Laird CREGAR
"The LODGER"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus A Big Stage Show
ROXY
7th Ave. & 60th St.

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

20th CENTURY FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 10 a.m.
Rivoli
B'way & 49th St.

What New York Critics Say About "The Song of Bernadette"

Howard Barnes found it universally appealing, appraised it warmly and with feeling.

HOWARD BARNES—*New York Herald Tribune*—Has been brought to the screen with fervor, eloquence and delicacy . . . becomes a stirring and beautiful motion picture for spectators of all creeds.

John T. McManus was deeply impressed; gave it unstinted praise.

JOHN T. MCMANUS—*New York PM*—One of the most painstakingly fine motion pictures ever made. . . . Scene for scene, it is a productional and directorial triumph for idealism.

Kate Cameron acclaimed it as the greatest picture ever made in Hollywood; found it "perfect."

KATE CAMERON—*New York Daily News*—The film is a flawless production. . . . The greatest picture Hollywood has ever made. . . . The perfect screen production.

Lee Mortimer praised it unstintingly, both as an artistic creation and a box office property.

LEE MORTIMER—*New York Daily Mirror*—Twentieth Century-Fox may be proud. . . ."Bernadette" lives, throbs, thrills. . . . Will . . . roll up a gross of millions of dollars.

Eileen Creelman was impressed by the film's power.

EILEEN CREELMAN—*N. Y. Sun*—The picture . . . is a profoundly moving tale, most beautifully unfolded. There have been no mistakes in the filming . . . except for the overwhelming length at which it is told . . . has a dramatic theme and situation. . . . Its great force comes with the naturalness of its telling . . . should move any one, whatever his religious convictions.

C. E. Blackford found it masterful, an accomplishment which elevates the entire production industry.

C. E. BLACKFORD—*N. Y. Journal-American*—Is a fine picture. It is a lovely picture. It is a great picture. . . . It is an artistic and histrionic triumph, a thrilling and engrossing film narrative. It is a wonderfully constructed piece of master craftsmanship . . . is a magnificent picture, immeasurably increasing the stature of Hollywood.

Alton Cook found it a memorable and enduring theatre experience.

ALTON COOK—*N. Y. World-Telegram*—Is a glorious achievement . . . in the last 20 minutes or so it descends from almost Biblical exaltation and drops into sheer pathos. . . . Will give you solidly enduring pleasure.

Archer Winsten was touched by its beauty and force, its wide appeal.

ARCHER WINSTEN—*N. Y. Post*—Is a beautiful and heart-rending tale which will not confine its emotional appeal to those religiously inclined. . . . A picture of great emotional impact.

Bosley Crowther raises a lone dissenting voice, but with a note of uncertainty in it and occasional pauses for cautious praise.

BOSLEY CROWTHER—*N. Y. Times*—Unquestionably this picture is tedious and repetitious. . . . Played with exceptional authority by a large and completely excellent cast. . . . Achieves a rare quality of sweetness that lifts it above its common faults. . . . Faith has the strength to move mountains, but it is sorely taxed in sustaining this mountainous film.

SMPE Meeting Is Set for April 17-19

The Society of M. P. Engineers will hold its 55th semi-annual conference at the Hotel Pennsylvania here April 17-19, instead of April 25-27, as previously scheduled, it was announced yesterday by W. C. Kunzmann, SMPE convention vice-president. Papers already submitted, according to W. H. Offenhauser, chairman of the papers committee, indicate the conference will cover new war developments in the motion picture engineering field. Committee chairman include: reception, D. E. Hyndman; registration, Kunzmann; luncheon and dinner-dance, Barton Kreuzer; papers, Offenhauser, chairman, and C. R. Daily, vice-chairman; membership, James Frank, Jr.; hotel, Oscar F. Neu; projection, H. Heidegger; ladies' reception, Mrs. E. I. Sponable.

'Danger' Screening

"Escape to Danger," British-made film being distributed in this country by RKO, will be trade screened here and in Los Angeles Monday at the respective RKO exchanges.

'Lady in Dark' Stars At Both Premieres

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27.—World premiere of "Lady in the Dark" on Feb. 9 at the Hollywood Paramount will have stars of the film, Ginger Rogers, Ray Milland, Warner Baxter and Jon Hall, attending, as well as director Mitchell Leisen and civic leaders of Los Angeles, Army and Navy officials and others.

Phyllis Brooks and Gail Russell of the film will attend the Eastern premiere at the New York Paramount later in February.

MGM 'Show Builder' For Small-town Tour

Furthering its campaign to aid small town exhibitors affected adversely by war conditions, as detailed recently in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, M-G-M is routing its "Show-Builder" traveling exploitation exhibit so that all situations covered by home office and field representatives studying small-town exhibitor operations will be included in the exhibit's itinerary.

'Tokyo' Heads for Impressive $27,800 In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—"Destination Tokyo" continued to score heavily here to draw $27,800 in its second week at the Fox. "Around the World," with Henry Busse's band on the stage, was heading for $26,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 25:

"Minesweeper" (Para.)
WARFIELD — (2,680) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, with vaudeville. Gross: $23,900. (Average: $20,300).

"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
"Young Ideas" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT — (2,740) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $18,700).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $27,800. (Average: $22,100).

"Around the World" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $26,000).

"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
ORPHEUM — (2,440) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $12,700).

"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $10,300).

"North Star" (RKO)
"Spotlight Scandals" (Mono.)
STATE—(2,306) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Paramount. Gross: $13,200. (Average: $11,000).

"Buck Privates" (Univ.)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (35c-50c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. Average: $10,000).

RKO-Radio to Screen Five on Feb. 14-17

Trade screenings of five new RKO-Radio pictures, to be held Feb. 14-17, were announced here yesterday by president Ned E. Depinet.

"Tender Comrade" and "Escape to Danger" are scheduled for Feb. 14; "Action in Arabia" and "Passport to Adventure," Feb. 15, and "The Curse of the Cat People," Feb. 16. St. Louis, however, will see each of them a day later.

New York, Los Angeles and Detroit will have no screenings of "Tender Comrade," and New York and Los Angeles will have none of "Escape to Danger," both films having previously been shown in those cities.

'Fighting SeaBees' Receptions Today

Republic will hold receptions today in New Haven and Buffalo in connection with local premieres of "The Fighting SeaBees." At New Haven, Jerome Lewis, Republic's branch manager, will be host.

In Buffalo the film will open on Feb. 3 at the 20th Century Theatre. Jack Bellman, branch manager, will preside.

Music Film Deal Set

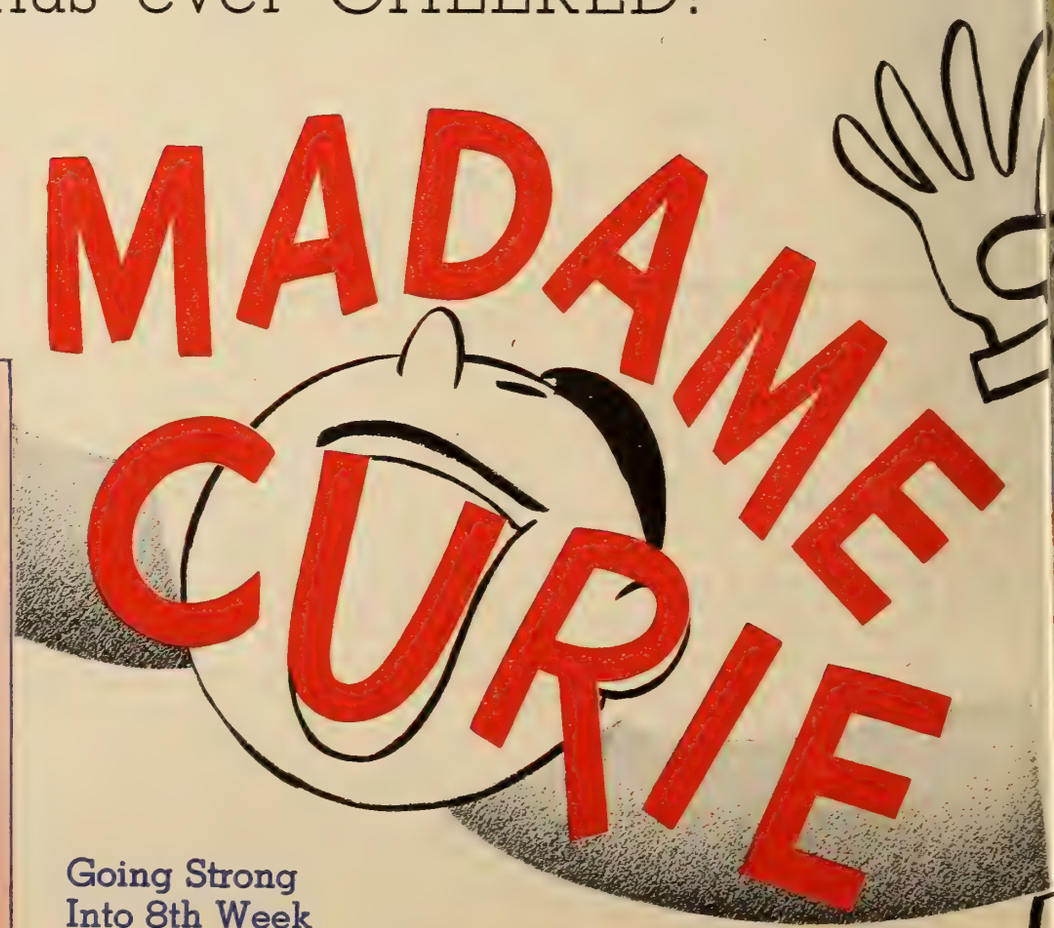
Melvin Hirsch of Crystal Pictures, New York, has concluded a deal with Walter Loewendahl, chairman of Artists' Films, Hollywood, to handle domestic and foreign distribution of that company's product, it was announced here yesterday. First Artists' picture, "Adventure in Music," has been completed and a run will be set for the Little Carnegie here.



M-G-M IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

One! Two! Three!
Sock! Sock! Sock! It's just the beginning of the Greatest Group this industry has ever CHEERED!



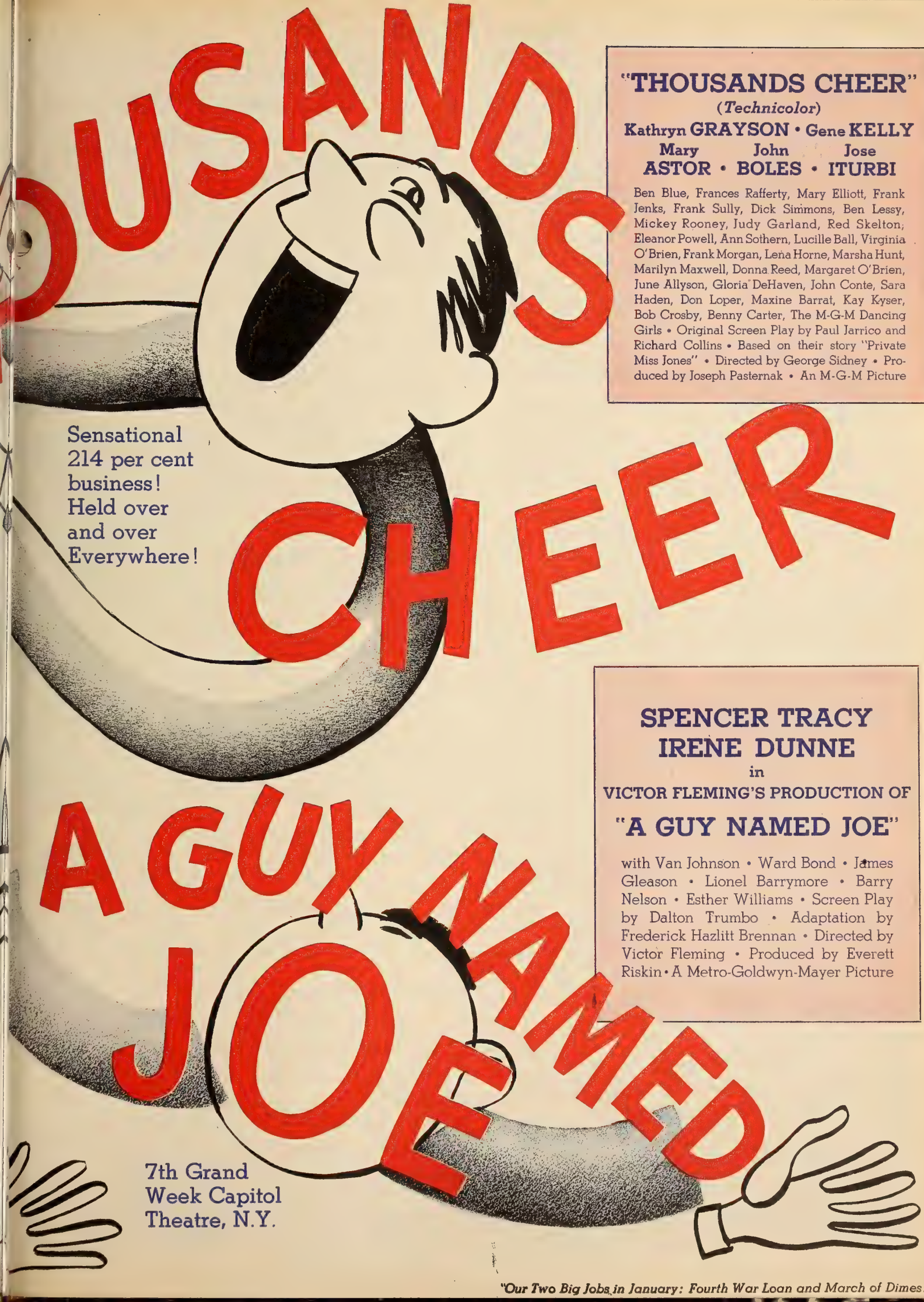


GREER GARSON
WALTER PIDGEON
in
"MADAME CURIE"

Directed by MERVYN LEROY · *Produced by* SIDNEY FRANKLIN

with Henry Travers • Albert Basserman Robert Walker • C. Aubrey Smith • Dame May Whitty • Victor Francen • Elsa Basserman • Reginald Owen • Van Johnson • Margaret O'Brien • Screen Play by Paul Osborn and Paul H. Rameau Based on the Book "Madame Curie" by Eve Curie • An M-G-M Picture

Going Strong
Into 8th Week
Radio City Music Hall!



"THOUSANDS CHEER"

(Technicolor)

Kathryn GRAYSON • Gene KELLY

Mary ASTOR • John BOLES • Jose ITURBI

Ben Blue, Frances Rafferty, Mary Elliott, Frank Jenks, Frank Sully, Dick Simmons, Ben Lessy, Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Red Skelton, Eleanor Powell, Ann Sothern, Lucille Ball, Virginia O'Brien, Frank Morgan, Lena Horne, Marsha Hunt, Marilyn Maxwell, Donna Reed, Margaret O'Brien, June Allyson, Gloria DeHaven, John Conte, Sara Haden, Don Loper, Maxine Barrat, Kay Kyser, Bob Crosby, Benny Carter, The M-G-M Dancing Girls • Original Screen Play by Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins • Based on their story "Private Miss Jones" • Directed by George Sidney • Produced by Joseph Pasternak • An M-G-M Picture

Sensational 214 per cent business! Held over and over Everywhere!

SPENCER TRACY
IRENE DUNNE

in

VICTOR FLEMING'S PRODUCTION OF

"A GUY NAMED JOE"

with Van Johnson • Ward Bond • James Gleason • Lionel Barrymore • Barry Nelson • Esther Williams • Screen Play by Dalton Trumbo • Adaptation by Frederick Hazlitt Brennan • Directed by Victor Fleming • Produced by Everett Riskin • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

7th Grand Week Capitol Theatre, N.Y.

"Our Two Big Jobs in January: Fourth War Loan and March of Dimes!"

Stars in Capital For Birthday Ball; Collections Soar

(*Continued from page* 1)

Meanwhile, with three more days to go, the national total for the 1944 drive continues to soar, the industry's national executive committee and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis report.

Basil O'Connor, president of the Foundation, said yesterday that "the time, thought and effort exhibitors of the nation have put into this campaign is evidence of the keen interest showmen have in the welfare of their fellow men."

The total for Loew's Theatres is now approaching $300,000, or 10 per cent of the national goal. This against $212,142 in the 1943 campaign.

Minnesota May Hit $50,000

W. H. Workman, state chairman for Minnesota, reported that collections are running from 30 per cent to 40 per cent ahead. Reports from Tony Sudekum, R. M. Kennedy and Rorney Toups, state chairmen for Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana, respectively, said donations are running far ahead of 1943. Frank L. Newman, Sr., chairman for Washington, reported "greater response and enthusiasm on Dimes collections throughout the state." All-over increase will be at least 50 per cent over last year's figure.

Jack Harris, district manager for 13 Skouras theatres on Long Island, said the house collected $6,317 in four days, against a seven-day total of $6,588 last year.

NSS Trailers to Be Salvaged

Herman Robbins, president of National Screen Service, has urged exhibitors to return the Greer Garson "appeal" trailer. "Every trailer returned will be salvaged for its silver content," said Robbins. "The proceeds of the salvage are added to the 'Dimes' national total."

'Curie' $8,500 Over Par in Providence

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 27. — "Madame Curie" played to capacity on its opening weekend and was headed toward a sensational $24,000 at Loew's State. "No Time for Love" continued to do nice business in its second week, netting $9,400 at the Strand.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 27:

"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
"Spider Woman" (Univ.)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $12,900).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Mine Sweeper" (Para.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,400. (Average: $10,000).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $15,500).
"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000)
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, move-over from Majestic. Gross: $4,300. (Average: $3,900).
"Banjo on My Knees" (20th-Fox)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: Cleve & Kellar, Two Mansfields, Morris & Morris, Marion Roberge, Valentine & Co., Margie Robbins. Gross: $6,700. (Average: $6,500).
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
METROPOLITAN—(3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Will Osborne's orchestra, Patricia Morison. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,000).

Theatres Counter Adverse 'Flu' Talk

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Whispering by the public against theatre attendance during the 'flu' epidemic was deftly offset by employees of film houses who posed themselves as healthy examples because they worked where the air is washed and purified. They talked about it enthusiastically on street cars, elevateds and buses.

A few managers and employees who were ill became so, they said, from over-exertion in holding back the overflows of war workers.

U.A. Studies Shifts In Top Authority

(*Continued from page* 1)

operations, and the assignment to other company executives of other obligations heretofore the responsibility of Sears.

George Bagnall, Edward C. Raftery, Charles Schwartz, Sears and Paul O'Brien are among those who attended sessions of the board on Monday and yesterday. Another meeting is scheduled to be held today. Company officials sought for querying on the reports either were non-committal or not available. One report on which comment was declined was that Sears is to be given complete authority over all company operations, including its relations with producer associates in Hollywood, particularly in connection with company financing of productions. Sears is distribution vice-president of the company and, with the recent relinquishment by Arthur W. Kelly of supervision of foreign sales, that function fell in Sears' province.

No changes in executive titles, however, are anticipated at the current meetings, which are described as exploratory in nature. The titles involved are elective, it was pointed out, and are voted on by company owners.

'London', Show, Hits $21,000 in Buffalo

BUFFALO, Jan. 27.—"Jack London," at the Buffalo, aided by its 18th anniversary stage show revue with Glen Gray's orchestra, is heading for a big $21,000 in six days. "The Gang's All Here" will probably do $20,400 at the Great Lakes.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29:

"Jack London" (UA)
BUFFALO—(3,489) (40c-65c) 6 days. On the stage: revue with Glen Gray & Casa Loma Band with Eugenie Baird & Bob Anthony, Ames & Arno, Ladd Lyon and Anita Boyer. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $16,500).
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $20,400. (Average: $16,400).
"Riding High" (Para.)
"Mine Sweeper" (Para.)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, moveover. Gross: $8,900. (Average: $9,500).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
"The Seventh Victim" (RKO)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,600).
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
"Larceny with Music" (Univ.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,500).

St. Louis Topped By 'Curie's' $24,000

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 27. — "Madame Curie" topped all other showings with $24,000 here this week at Loew's State, with business continuing good.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 26:

"Riding High" (Para.)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. Average: $16,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $16,900).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"O My Darling Clementine" (Rep.)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $8,000).
"North Star" (RKO)
"You're a Lucky Fellow, Mr. Smith" (Univ.)
AMBASSADOR—(3,154) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. Average: $12,500).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c). Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,900).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"Government Girl" (RKO)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000).
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"True to Life" (Para.)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $4,500. Average: $5,000).

'Girl Crazy', 'Sahara' Lead in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 27.—"Girl Crazy" was headed for a $14,000 week at the State Theatre, while "Sahara" promised $12,000 at the Orpheum. Unseasonably balmy weather prevailed.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29:

"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,100. (Average: $2,300).
"Thank Your Lucky Stars" (WB)
CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,000).
"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
GOPHER—(998) (35c) 7 days. Gross: $4,600. (Average $3,500).
"Sahara" (Col.)
ORPHEUM—(2,800) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M)
STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LYRIC—(1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,200).
"Falcon and the Coeds" (RKO) 4 days.
"The Deerslayer" (Rep.) 4 days.
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with midweek change. Gross: $2,600. (Average: $2,500).

'Curie' $5,000 over In Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 27.—"Madame Curie" is the favorite here this week and will do $16,000, $5,000 above average at Loew's.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 25-27:

"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $11,000).
"The North Star" (RKO-Goldwyn)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Hostages" (Para.)
"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Jan. 27

WARNERS have six shorts in production or editing, largest number in work at any one time at that studio since Pearl Harbor. They are: Howard Hill's "Champions of the Future," "Son of the Range," "Cattlemen Days," in Technicolor; "America the Beautiful," two-reel Technicolor scenic; "South American Sway," Latin rhythms, and "Wells Fargo Days," a color short featuring Dennis Moore and Louise Stanley. Whether the added impetus given short subject production is due to Warners' first-run theatre success here with single bill programs bolstered with shorts, studio officials were not prepared to state, but admitted it could have some bearing.

•

Stanley Bergerman, who says he has $1,000,000 *of David L. Loew's finances behind him, has purchased "Skymaster," a factual story of aviation which he intends to produce. No release has been set. . . . Arnold Pressburger has an option on "Shadow in the Flame," a story of a pyromaniac.*

•

Eddie Bracken rejoins Betty Hutton in a co-star capacity in Paramount's "Out of This World." The pair co-starred in "Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and "Star-Spangled Rhythm." . . . Harry Gray has put his "Cowboy and the Senorita," starring Roy Rogers with Dale Evans, Mary Lee, John Hubbard and Big Boy Williams, before the cameras at Republic. . . . Paramount gave William Demarest a term contract following his comedy work in "Miracle of Morgan's Creek." . . . Monogram's "The Sonora Kid" is now titled "Sonora Stage Coach." . . . Felix Feist will direct Gloria Jean's next picture at Universal. . . . Dorothy Parker will script Gregory Ratoff's "Band Wagon," which he will produce for 20th-Fox following a directorial assignment.

Kansas City Gives 'Curie' Big $24,000

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 27.—"Madame Curie" at the Midland leads first runs with approximately $24,000 for the week. "Flesh and Fantasy" is grossing approximately $20,000 at the three Fox Midwest first-runs: Esquire, Uptown and Fairway. Weather has been above-freezing.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 26-27:

"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $8,750. (Average: $5,500)
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $14,000)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000)
"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
"Coastal Command" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $10,000)
"Pride of the Plains" (Rep.)
"Hands Across the Border" (Rep.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,400)
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $5,600)
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days Gross: $2,500. (Average: $1,450)

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war and campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

HARRY D. STEARN, Manring Theatre, Middlesboro, Ky.
JAMES J. GLENNON, Metropolitan Theatre, Washington.
JAMES W. BERGEN, Dyker Theatre, Brooklyn, N. Y.
JOHN J. CASSIN, Kisco Theatre, Mt. Kisco, N. Y.
MARION JOURDAN, Majestic Theatre, Iuka, Miss.
DAN F. SHOVELIN, Shovelin Theatre, Battle Mountain, Nev.
H. G. WELLS, Harriet Theatre, Hardin, Mont.
CLAUDE DARCE, New Opera House, Morgan City, La.
FRANK SAVAGE, Warner Theatre, Youngstown, O.
E. C. EVANS, Plaza Theatre, Milford, Del.
J. GLENN CALDWELL, Princess Theatre, Aurora, Miss.
CARL P. ROGERS, Brown Grant Theatre, Concordia, Kan.
MRS. MYRTLE HALLIBURTON, Capitol Theatre, Little Rock, Ark.

Over 1,400 RKO-ites In Armed Services

(*Continued from page* 1)

Colonel William S. Savage, formerly of the legal department, who is now at Pecos Field, Texas. Nine are majors and 13 are captains.

Staff Sergeant Jim O'Donnell, formerly manager of RKO's 23rd Street here, originally reported missing in action in a raid over Germany, is the latest addition to the list of those killed. Others are: Ensign Frank Bonyszewski, Pvt. W. A. Cain, Lt. Harry Dunham, A-C Raymond Ellis, Jerome E. French, Sgt. J. Ingram, Pvt. Francis X. McAlear, Weldon McNichols, Sgt. Carl Monson, Pvt. Henry Moeller, Harold Oldham, Lt. Eugene Schoop, Lt. Harold L. Tannenbaum and Frank Adams.

14 Return to RKO From Armed Forces

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27. — Fourteen service men, honorably discharged from the armed forces, have returned to their former posts at RKO's studio here.

Among them are: Harold Lewis, studio manager for RKO Pathe; Sam Waxman, who returns to the film shipping department; Nate Slott, assistant director; Samuel Harris, "props"; Edward P. Leonard, sound; Irving C. Hedeen, transportation; John Lockert, sound; John O'Malley, electrical; Harry Billings, stills; John Boykin, maintenance; Sam Hart, accounting, and Harold Minnier.

Miss Strauss to Morris

Helen Strauss, eastern story editor with Paramount for the past eight years, will join the William Morris Agency literary department on Feb. 26, taking charge of book and magazine accounts under Albert Schneider.

12 Industry Leaders Will Tour U. S. to Aid Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

lows: George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee; Leonard Goldenson, vice-president of Paramount; Robert Mochrie, general sales manager of RKO Radio; Dan Michalove, vice-president of National Theatres; Oscar Doob, director of advertising-publicity of Loew's Theatres; Abe Montague, vice-president and sales-manager of Columbia; Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president of Loew's; Major L. E. Thompson, RKO Theatres; John Harris, vice-president of Harris Amusements, Pittsburgh; Herman Robbins, president of National Screen; Harry Kalmine, assistant general manager of Warner Theatres, and Herman Wobber, Western district manager of 20th Century-Fox.

Meet Skouras Today

Today they will meet with Skouras and other members of the campaign committee to outline tour plans. The meeting will be held at the Hotel Plaza at one P.M. In addition to the 12 gentlemen and Skouras attending the meeting will be Francis S. Harmon, WAC vice-chairman; Si Fabian, chairman of the WAC theatres division; F. H. Ricketson, Jr., vice-chairman of the 4th War Loan campaign committee; B. V. Sturdivant, campaign director; Robert Selig and A. J. Krappmann, assistant campaign directors; Seymour Peiser, publicity director, and Sam Shain.

Anne Baxter Leads In Day's Returns

With sales of $5,000,000 of 4th War Loan bonds at a dinner given Wednesday night by the Maryland Council of Insurance Saving and Loan Associations in Baltimore, Anne Baxter led the "Bondardiers" who were heard from in yesterday's reports at WAC headquarters here.

Miss Baxter will go to Annapolis today for a luncheon at Carvel Hall Hotel and an appearance at the Annapolis Yacht Yard. Tomorrow she will speak to 46,000 at the Bethlehem Fairfield Shipyards, Baltimore.

Franchot Tone and Lucille Ball accounted for sales of $300,000 yesterday at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia. Ella Raines sent subscriptions of workers at the Isaacson Iron Works in Seattle up 200 per cent above quota, and in Chicago John Garfield and Jinx Falkenburg rolled up $150,000 at Utah Radio Products, and $115,000 at the Mills Industries plant. Another $115,000 came through Garfield and Miss Falkenburg at a Kiwanis rally in Forest Park, Ill.

WAC 1-Reelers Give Way to Bond Trailers

Word was sent this week to all distribution and exhibitor chairmen of the War Activities Committee advising that there would be no WAC single reel subjects released during the 4th War Loan drive. Herman Gluckman, in charge of distribution of the Victory shorts, explained that due to the 4th War Loan trailers that are now showing and with additional ones to come it was decided that all exhibitors should have screen space exclusively for the war bond messages.

California Gets $5,500,000

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27.—Southern California theatres, up to and including Tuesday, sold bonds worth $5,500,000, reports Dave Bershon, exhibitor chairman.

Hall-Andrews Returns

EAST ST. LOUIS, Jan. 27.—Hollywood Bond Battalion No. 6, headed by Porter Hall and Lois Andrews, accounted for the sale of $65,000 in "E" bonds at the Majestic here.

'Curie' Rates Good $10,200: New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 27. — "Madame Curie" in 6½ days bid for $10,200 at the Loew-Poli. At the Bijou, "None Shall Escape," dualled with "Klondike Kate," took $5,300. At the Roger Sherman, "Gung Ho" and "Sing a Jingle" grossed $7,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 26:

"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
BIJOU—(1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $5,300. (Average: $3,500).
"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
COLLEGE — (1,565) (40c-50c) 6½ days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,600. (Average: $3,200).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW-POLI—(3,005) (40c-50c) 6½ days. Gross: $10,200. (Average: $9,300).
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
"Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (Univ.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,400).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,400).

English Films Moves

English Films, Inc., formerly located at 729 Seventh Ave., here, has moved to new offices at 1560 Broadway.

Exhibitors Are Given Decree by Tom Clark

(*Continued from page* 1)

Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Operators, left the Coast yesterday for the Chicago meeting and will go on from there to Washington for conferences with Clark.

It is not expected that the views of those attending the conference will be made known in Chicago, Myers said. If an agreement is reached, it is planned to reduce it to writing for submission to Clark.

While he was sending the decree to the various exhibitor organizations, Clark did not disclose whether the proposals, as submitted by the majors, would be acceptable to the Department. Any objections which the Department may raise to any of the provisions are expected to be made after the exhibitors have had their say.

William Howard Dies

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27. — William Howard, actor and member of an old theatrical family, died here recently. He was 60. Pictures in which Howard played included "Diamond Jim Brady," "Come and Get It," "Blossoms in the Dust," and others.



ROY ROGERS
KING OF THE COWBOYS
and
TRIGGER
SMARTEST HORSE IN THE MOVIES



are coming to delight their millions of fans in their newest and greatest musical adventure—a gay fiesta of fun and excitement.

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER

with RUTH TERRY
Guinn "Big Boy" Williams
Onslow Stevens
Mary Treen
The Were Brothers
BOB NOLAN
and THE SONS OF THE PIONEERS

ROY SINGS
Hoagy ("Stardust") Carmichael's great hit, "Hands Across the Border," and "Dreaming to Music," "When Your Heart's on Easy Street," "The Girl with the High-Buttoned Shoes," "Hey Hey" and "Cool Water"

BUY WAR BONDS and STAMPS

A REPUBLIC PICTURE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 1	WHAT A WOMAN Rosalind Russell Brian Aherne Willard Parker D—93 mins.	(Second Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)		(Second Block) RIDING HIGH (Technicolor) Dorothy Lamour Dick Powell Victor Moore M—89 mins. (4307)	THE TEXAS RANGERS IN GUNSMOKE MESA James Newill (453)	WHISPERING FOOTSTEPS John Hubbard D—56 mins. OH, MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Frank Albertson C—69c mins.	(First Block) A LADY TAKES A CHANCE Jean Arthur John Wayne C—(405)		THE WOMAN OF THE TOWN Albert Dekker Claire Trevor D—88 mins.	GUNG HO Randolph Scott Alan Curtis David Bruce Noah Beery, Jr. D—88 mins. (8064)	
Jan. 8		THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	WOMEN IN BONDAGE Gail Patrick D—71 mins. (303)	NO TIME FOR LOVE Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray Ilka Chase C—83 mins. (4309)	CAREER GIRL Frances Langford M—66 mins. (403)	CALIFORNIA JOE Don "Red" Barry Helen Talbot Wally Vernon O	THE FALLEN SPARROW Maureen O'Hara John Garfield D—(401)	THE LODGER Merle Oberon George Sanders Laird Cregar D—84 mins. (417)		SING A JINGLE Allan Jones June Vincent Samuel S. Hinds M—62 mins. (8034)	DESTINATION TOKYO Cary Grant John Garfield D—135 mins. (309)
Jan. 15	THE RACKET MAN Tom Neal Jeanne Bates Hugh Beaumont D—64 mins.	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)	WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN Jackie Cooper D—72 mins. (302)	HENRY ALDRICH HAUNTS A HOUSE Jimmy Lydon Charles Smith John Litel C—73 mins. (4306)		PRIDE OF THE PLAINS Bob Livingston Smiley Burnette O HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Roy Rogers O—74 mins. (341)	ADVENTURES OF A ROOKIE Wally Brown Allen Carney C—(402)		THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS Anna Sten Kent Smith D—79 mins.	ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES (in Technicolor) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—87 mins. (8003)	
Jan. 22	SWING OUT THE BLUES Bob Haymes Lynn Merrick M—70 mins.	A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)	SULTAN'S DAUGHTER Ann Corio C—64 mins. (888) WESTWARD BOUND O—(362) VODOO MAN Bela Lugosi D		NABONGA Buster Crabbe Fifi D'Orsay Barton MacLane D—(408)	ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RHYTHM Gene Autry (Re-issue) O (3301)	THE SEVENTH VICTIM Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(403)	UNCENSORED (Made in England) Phyllis Calvert Griffiths Jones D—83 mins. (418)		SPIDER WOMAN Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce Gale Sondergaard D—62 mins. (8021)	
Jan. 29	BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKE Joan Davis John Hubbard C—74 mins.	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417) RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—(418)	WHAT A MAN Johnnie Downs C—66 mins. (228) RAIDERS OF THE BORDER Johnny Mack Brown O—(352)	MINESWEEPER Richard Arlen Jean Parker D—67 mins. (4308)		WOMEN IN WAR Elsie Janis D	SO THIS IS WASHINGTON Lum & Abner C—(404)	LIFEBOAT Talullah Bankhead William Bendix D—96 mins. (419)	KNICKERBOCKER HOLIDAY Nelson Eddy Charles Coburn D	PHANTOM LADY Franchot Tone Ella Raines Alan Curtis D—87 mins.	
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE Marsha Hunt Alexander Knox D—85 mins.	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—115 mins. (419)		(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—(409)		(Second Block) THE IRON MAJOR Pat O'Brien D—85 mins. (406)	(Feb. Releases. No definite date set) JANE EYRE Joan Fontaine Orson Welles D	THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D—63 mins.	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—(420)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)	FRONTIER OUTLAW Buster Crabbe O—(462)	CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins.	GANGWAY FOR TOMORROW Margo Robert Ryan D—(407)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D		THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D	THIS IS THE ARMY (Regular release) George Murphy Joan Leslie M—115 mins. (224)
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)		THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)	THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (Made in England) D—(413)		GOVERNMENT GIRL Olivia De Havilland Sonny Tufts D—(408)			WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315)	HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)			GILDERSLEEVE ON BROADWAY Harold Peary Billie Burke C—65 mins. (409)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M	
Mar. 4		SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)				THE FALCON AND THE CO-EDS Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(410)				FRISCO KID (Re-issue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11		MADAM CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)			NORTH STAR Anne Baxter Walter Huston Dana Andrews D—105 mins. (451)		VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	CROSS YOUR FINGERS Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett	

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4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 21 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1944 TEN CENTS

Adopt 8-Point Industry War Effort Plan

'Flying Bondsmen' Look Beyond 4th Loan

An eight-point "all-out" program to further the industry's 4th War Loan effort, and its efforts in all phases of war work, was outlined at the weekend to the 12 industry leaders who will become "flying bondsmen" to meet with state exhibitor, distributor and war finance committee chairmen and other film workers in all exchange centers.

The program was revealed at a luncheon at the Hotel Plaza here, with Frank H. Ricketson, Jr., national vice-chairman of the industry's campaign committee, presiding. Brief talks were given by Charles P. Skouras, S. H. Fabian, Francis S. Harmon, B. V. Sturdivant, Claude Lee and Robert Coyne. The latter is assistant national director of the Treasury Department's war finance division.

The eight-point program follows:

(*Continued on page 8*)

Requirements for Essentiality Cited

DETROIT, Jan. 30. — A WMC spokesman concedes here that "there is a bare possibility that certain theatre occupations might warrant being declared essential," as for example, projectionists, but theatres as a whole, he said, would have to prove that they were operating on a minimum basis, that they were indispensable under health, welfare or safety of the community, and could not function unless stabilized, in order to obtain an "essential" rating.

Overtures to have film houses in Wayne County declared essential, therefore, are meeting with a cool reception from the district office here of the War Manpower Commission, it was learned today.

Chicago Exchanges On 40-Hour Week

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—The War Manpower Commission in this area has exempted film exchanges here from the 48-hour week ruling, permitting them to remain on a 40-hour week.

The exemption was granted upon an appeal made on behalf of distributors by C. J. Scollar of Paramount.

'Golden Rule' Is Kirsch's Keynote

Chicago, Jan. 30.—Invocation of "the Golden Rule for all in the film industry" will be the keynote sounded by Jack Kirsch, president of Allied of Illinois, in a formal welcome today to the board of directors of the Allied States meeting in the Blackstone Hotel here.

"Aside from differences between exhibitors and the distributing companies we will stress that we should have the public's interest and welfare first in our minds and in our actions," Kirsch said.

Allied and Other Groups Meet Today On Decree and Taxes

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—Members of the half-dozen or more independent exhibitor organizations meeting with Allied's board at the Blackstone Hotel here tomorrow will have available for consideration a copy of the distributors' decree proposals and an exhaustive analysis prepared by Abram F. Myers, Allied general counsel.

The decree is expected to be the major matter to come before Allied's annual meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, as well.

With the admission tax question disposed of by the conference committee in Washington last week, the only

(*Continued on page 8*)

DECREE PROPOSALS RECEIVED COOLLY

Distributors' Final Draft Rejects Local Arbitration Appeal Boards; Holds To 'Umpi' Cancellation Plan

Proposals for revision of the consent decree submitted by the distributors last week and now being circulated among exhibitor organizations leave much to be desired from the standpoint of the exhibitors, it was indicated at the weekend by the first reaction to details of the program which have seeped out through the industry.

At the Department of Justice in Washington, Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark refused to comment on the revision, but said he might issue a general statement on the proposals Monday or Tuesday. But there were indications that the distributors' offers were not wholly satisfactory and that a further drive for more concessions might be made when the arguments of the organized exhibitors have been reached.

It was learned that the distributors offer little in the way of improved arbitration and refused to incorporate in their revision the proposal for establishing regional appeal boards, as requested.

Better cancellation privileges have been incorporated, however, in the inclusion in the Draft of the "Umpi plan."

The distributors' proposals for ap-

(*Continued on page 10*)

Ask New Appeal Board Terms Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—An order extending the term of judges of the arbitration appeal board, possibly for as long as one year, is expected to be submitted to Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard in New York tomorrow.

The order has been prepared by the Department of Justice and will go to the court as the present extended term of the board expires.

Under provisions of the industry's consent decree, terms of the appeal board members were set for three years, ending tomorrow. George W. Alger, Albert W. Putnam and Robert McC. Marsh are the present judges. Marsh succeeded the late Van Vechten Veeder and his interim appointment was extended by Judge Goddard last November to Jan. 31.

Industry Goes Well Over $3,000,000 'Dimes' Quota

The industry's 1944 "March of Dimes" collections ended last night after achieving "an all-time record for audience collections, topping the United Nations campaign of last year ($1,650,000) and the Red Cross drive ($3,067,236)", according to drive leaders, who analyzed reports received up until a late hour Sunday night. They were confident the $3,000,000 goal would be considerably exceeded in the final returns.

"It probably will be several weeks before all reports have cleared through the March of Dimes state chairmen," said Walter Vincent, treasurer. "To enable us to announce an actual total at an early date, every exhibitor is urged to make a report of his collections today."

(*Continued on page 10*)

Films, Ads Up 17% In Latin America

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—United States industry will spend at least $13,700,000 in advertising in Latin America this year, a good slice of it in motion pictures, it was estimated at the weekend by the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

This will represent an increase of about 17 per cent over such expenditures last year, but more important, according to William A. Anderson, chief of the advertising section of the CIAA Department of Economic Development, it represents a reversal of a previous downward trend.

Revived interest in Latin American

(*Continued on page 10*)

See Lifting of Ban On Atrocity Films

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30. — Complete lifting of the War Department ban on pictures showing Jap atrocities inflicted on United Nations soldiers is expected immediately as a result of official revelations of barbarous treatment accorded Bataan and Corregidor prisoners by their captors.

William Cunningham, acting head of the Office of War Information here, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY at

(*Continued on page 8*)

Columbia Sales Meet Here Tomorrow

Columbia Pictures will open a three-day sales meeting tomorrow at the Hotel Warwick here, with branch and division managers from all territories except the Western district attending, as well as home office executives. A. Montague, general sales manager, will preside.

Twenty-five branches will be represented at the sessions.

Personal Mention

W. A. SCULLY, CHARLES D. PRUTZMAN and EUGENE WALSH of Universal are expected back at their desks today after visits of several weeks at the studio. J. CHEEVER COWDIN and JOSEPH H. SEIDELMAN will return to New York later.

•

LT. MURRAY L. DEVANEY, Royal Canadian Navy, son of LEO M. DEVANEY, RKO Canadian sales manager, was married last week in Halifax, N. S., to SUB-LIEUT. IRMA MAUDE MALCOLM, WRCNS.

•

BOB CUMMINS, a supervisor at the St. Louis Republic office, is at the Des Moines exchange on relief duty during the absence of JUNE DOUGLAS, who is ill.

•

JOHN F. O'BRIEN, assistant sales manager of the RCA theatre equipment division, returned Friday from Boston.

•

MITCHELL CONERY, head of the Conery Circuit, is recuperating from a recent illness at his Ravena, N. Y., home.

•

PETTY OFFICER BILL BRIGGS, former theatre operator in Memphis, is in charge of the motion picture department at the Chicago Navy Pier.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists Western division manager, returned from Montreal over the weekend.

•

JOSEPH J. MULLEN, 20th-Fox managing director for Mexico and supervisor of the Caribbean division, has returned to Mexico City.

•

SUE O'CONNOR has been appointed assistant to FRED MINDLIN, manager of the special service department of National Screen Service Corp.

•

ELMER LUX, RKO Buffalo branch manager, called at the Albany exchange last week.

•

SAM SHIRLEY, M-G-M district manager with headquarters at Chicago, is ill.

•

SAMMY COHEN, United Artists foreign publicity director, is on a two-week vacation.

•

MAY FRIEDMAN, Warner Theatres Albany zone film buyer, was a New York visitor over the weekend.

•

EZRA GOODMAN of Warner's studio publicity staff, left for the Coast over the weekend.

•

IRVING YERGIN of Warner's home office publicity staff is back from Buffalo and Erie.

•

WILLIAM GOETZ, president of International Pictures, returned to the Coast over the weekend.

•

SAM MEYERS has returned from Hot Springs.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE proposed formation of a nationwide exhibitor tax council to be the spearhead for all theatres, regardless of affiliation or classification, against efforts to levy discriminatory or confiscatory taxation takes a place with the most sensible and farseeing actions of organized exhibition on record. It is to be hoped that this most practical proposal will not end in the same fruitless destiny that other moves in the direction of exhibition unity have encountered.

And yet rumors are heard already that segments of exhibition, both important and unimportant to the realization of a united front on taxation, are advancing selfish claims to representation on the council which, if insisted upon, may not only threaten the success of the proposal, but may effectively sabotage it. Other segments are said to be denying the right of certain theatre classifications to any representation on the council or to more than a minimum of representation.

Allied States, because it will be the first to act upon the proposal at its board meeting in Chicago tomorrow and Wednesday, carries a heavy share of responsibility for the ultimate success or failure of the proposal. What action Allied takes, particularly its views as to what exhibition classifications are to be accorded representation on the council, and how much, may determine whether or not the plan will survive and bear fruit or die aborning. If Allied's action is on the side of common sense and fairness, the same responsibility for the success or failure of the plan will pass along to those exhibitor organizations which act upon it subsequently.

There is in the whole situation a good sampling of just what chance exhibitor unity has of being attained on any subject, now and for some time to come. Here is a matter — taxation — which affects every theatre, small or large, regardless of organizational ties. What happens in the realm of taxation is the concern of all. It would be the height of organizational folly to jettison a mutually protective project which promises no more relief, relatively, to one than to another, for reasons of petty jealousy or the misguided ambition of any exhibition segment "to run the show."

"Edward C. Raftery has been prevailed upon to accept the presidency of United Artists *for a limited period.*"

The quotation is from MOTION PICTURE DAILY of Nov. 18, 1941. The italics are ours. Three meetings of the United Artists' board of directors were held here last week. A meeting of company owners will follow in the near future.

• •

Without fanfare and, consequently, almost unnoticed in the trade, J. Arthur Rank has been elected a member of the Universal board of directors. The step, we are told, does not indicate any recent expansion of Rank's holdings in the company which for some time past have amounted to approximately a 25 per cent interest. A reasonable deduction, therefore, is that what it does signify is Rank's desire to be in closer contact with the American market in line with his current and post-war distribution ambitions.

• •

A visitor from London, commenting recently on the interest being shown by the anti-cartel division of the Department of Justice in Rank's interest in acquiring control of an American company, intimated that he suspected that local film interests "sic-ed" the Department on Rank.

A home office executive within earshot of the speaker observed: "The Department of Justice obviously is not in love with American film companies. How then can it be expected to show partiality to outsiders?"

• •

Paramount exploitation on "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" urges exhibitors to make a standing offer during the run of the picture to give $10,000 to anyone who can duplicate the "miracle." Whadda they mean, any *one*.

• •

The five consent decree companies are continuing to make their regular monthly payments for the maintenance of the industry arbitration system, although the fiscal year expired last November and no new budget has been set up, pending completion of the decree negotiations. Because of the continuation of the monthly payments the American Arbitration Association was not required to make use of its contingent industry fund of $25,000.

Coming Events

Feb. 1—Canadian distributor representatives' and independent exhibitors' meeting, Toronto.
Feb. 1-3—Columbia sales meeting, Hotel Warwick, New York.
Feb. 1-3—Allied States' board meeting, Chicago.
Feb. 3-5—Paramount sales meeting, Hotel Pierre, New York.
Feb. 7—New York and New Jersey exhibitors luncheon for Charles Skouras, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York.
Feb. 7—"Free Movie Day," New York.
Feb. 11—PRC sales convention, Hotel St. Moritz, New York.
Feb. 15—Warner stockholders' annual meeting, Wilmington, Del.
March 13—Rally for Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People of Europe, Madison Square Garden, New York.
March 14—Loew's annual stockholders' meeting, New York.

Moss to Report on Campaign for Scouts

The Boy Scouts of America will give a luncheon at the Hotel Commodore tomorrow to hear reports from the amusement and other divisions on the progress being made for the raising of $500,000 for the Scouts in New York.

Among those who are expected are Newbold Morris, president of the City Council; Ralph Bellamy, "Skippy" Hoheimer, Ben Grauer, NBC announcer; Homer Brown and Nevil Ford, of the War Finance Committee.

B. S. Moss is chairman of the amusement division with the following as co-chairmen: H. E. Emde, Alfred Butterfield, L. J. Barbano, Dan Michalove, Leonard Goldenson, Walter L. Titus, Emil Friedlander, Joe Bernstein, Nat Lefkovitz, Charles Alicoate, Arthur Jeffrey, Moe Sanders, Stewart McDonald, Mark Heiman, Abe Olman, Leo Brecher, Harold Cleary. The drive has received the endorsement of Will H. Hays, MPPDA head, Moss said.

Testimonial for Waters

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 30.—Variety Tent No. 9 will give a testimonial dinner next Monday, Feb. 7, for Welden A. Waters, who resigned as Paramount salesman here this week. The affair was announced by C. J. Latta, chief barker, who said the affair will be held in the Ten Eyck Hotel.

H. L. Straub Passes

DETROIT, Jan. 30.—Herbert L. Straub, 49, conductor of film house orchestras here for many years and music director of the Buffalo Broadcasting Corp., died late last week.

'Russian Girls' Premiere

"Three Russian Girls," produced by Gregor Rabinovitch for United Artists release, is scheduled for a Broadway premiere at the Palace Theatre on Feb. 3.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

SUNG HO!

outgrosses Walter Wanger's "EAGLE SQUADRON" and "ARABIAN NIGHTS!"

OH BOY...

That's the biggest news about UNIVERSAL'S BIG HIT

DATE "GUNG HO" IMMEDIATELY SO YOU CAN CAPITALIZE ON THE EXTRAORDINARY NATIONAL PUBLICITY, INCLUDING THREE COAST-TO-COAST TOP RADIO PROGRAMS, FULL-PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS IN ALL KEY CITIES, SPOT RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OVER 100 CITIES.

GUNG HO!

BREAKS RECORDS IN

ALLENTOWN · ALTOONA · ATLANTA
BETHLEHEM · FT. WAYNE · HARRISBURG
MIAMI · NEW HAVEN · NEW YORK
PITTSFIELD · READING · SAN FRANCISCO
SCRANTON · SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
TULSA · WILKES BARRE

and in New York — on Broadway — at Loew's Criterion!

WALTER WANGER'S "GUNG HO" BREAKS ALL EXISTING RECORDS!

Charles Moss, Managing Director of Loew's Criterion Theatre says that "Gung Ho" did the most sensational business he ever had in the Criterion Theatre and that "Gung Ho" is the most sensational picture the Criterion has ever played.



No IRB Formula on Percent Contracts

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The Internal Revenue Bureau will not establish a set formula but will consider every case individually on its merits in applying the salary stabilization program to percentage contracts made by studios with stars and featured players, it was indicated here at the weekend.

Representatives of Hollywood studios spent several days last week conferring here with Bureau officials but left Washington without any definite understanding.

The specific case before the Bureau involved the percentage contract of RKO with Fibber McGee and Molly, under which the team will receive a guaranteed minimum much greater than under previous agreements and a percentage of the return from their next picture. The contract was given tentative approval as an "emergency" matter, but with the insistence of Bureau officials that it was not to be considered a precedent.

The recent percentage policy announced by Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson and Commissioner of Internal Revenue Hannegan permits payments, regardless of dollar amount, provided the rate of percentage is not increased, but it was pointed out that this makes no provision for studio talent contracts. Bureau officials, however, intimated that all such contracts would be considered separately with a view to application of the President's "hold-the-line" policy.

'Children' and Show Gross High $18,000

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 30. — Milder weather cut receipts to some extent, but some good drawing pictures kept some houses filled. "The Lodger" at the Wisconsin did a good $15,500, and "Where Are Your Children?" and D'Artega and his all-girl orchestra at the Riverside hit $18,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29:

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
WISCONSIN—(3,200) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $12,500).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Is Everybody Happy" (Col.)
PALACE — (2,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,500).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
"Chance of a Lifetime" (Col.)
STRAND—(1,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,000).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Rep.)
RIVERSIDE—(2,700) (44c-50c-75c) 7 days, plus D'Artega and his all-girl orchestra. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,000).
"The North Star" (RKO)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
WARNER—(2,400) (44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"The Kansan" (Rep.)
ALHAMBRA—(1,900) (44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $9,200).

David Lipton Honored

David A. Lipton, Columbia director of advertising-publicity, who reports for induction at Camp Upton, Feb. 8, was presented with a going-away gift by associates on the industry's Eastern public information committee at a luncheon at the New York Athletic Club late last week.

Our Boys in the Jungles Want Shots of Times Sq.

By CHARLES RYWECK

"Newsreels showing scenes from home are the most popular entertainment for men in the Southwest Pacific," Earle Crotchett, veteran Universal Newsreel cameraman and war correspondent, back in the U. S. after almost two years in that area, declared in an interview here Friday at the company's home office. Crotchett attributed this to nostalgia, on the part of soldiers stationed thousands of miles away, for "a glimpse of some familiar scene." He is home on a 30-day leave after recently photographing the Marine action at Cape Gloucester, New Britain Island, where he represented the newsreel pool.

He said that fighting men "stand up and cheer wildly" at even so prosaic a scene as Times Square. Crotchett has participated in 26 flying combat missions, 130 hours of actual flying time. This is understood to be a record among newsreel war correspondents.

Newsreels Six Weeks Old

Newsreels which troops in the Southwest Pacific view, Crotchett stated, are combination reels sent out by the War Department and are usually six weeks old. Of the 5,000 feet which he "shot" on Cape Gloucester, he declared, only 500 feet were "killed" by censors. There are no restrictions on the taking of pictures but, of course, they are all subject to very strict War Department scrutiny.

In Australia, Crotchett said, people are exceedingly newsreel-conscious; theatres in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne devoted to newsreels exclusively are constantly thronged.

Because of complete lack of activity in remote areas, soldiers not fighting view Hollywood films four or five times at a clip, often sitting openly in heavy rain. "The USO is also doing a good job on entertainment," Crotchett said. Shows with music are the most warmly received, the unit consisting of Ray Bolger and "Little Jack" Little being the most popular. Another unit which he saw, consisting of Gary Cooper, Phyllis Brooks and Una Merkel disappointed the men somewhat, because of the lack of song.

Air Shots Spectacular

Crotchett said that working from the air during combat brings the most spectacular shots, especially in areas where thickly-matted jungles obscure visibility. He predicted that the Pacific War would terminate six to eight months after the European phase is brought to a close, when America and Britain would be in a position to bring full weight of their military power against the Japs. Crotchett was successful in taking pictures of the few Jap prisoners taken at Gloucester, working while he was unobserved by them.

The Universal cameraman, who is here with his wife, plans to return to the Southwest Pacific about March 1.

Latta Installed As Variety Barker

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 30.—C. J. Latta was installed for a second term as chief barker of the local Variety tent at a reception in the Ten Eyck Hotel here last week. Louis R. Golding, local WAC chairman, and a former chief barker, conducted the induction.

Installed with Latta were: first assistant, Herman Ripps, M-G-M branch manager; second assistant, Charles A. Smakwitz, Warner Circuit; dough guy, Clayton C. Eastman, Paramount branch manager; property man, Joe Shure, Fabian booker; the crew consisted of Harry Lamont, Lamont Theatres; Harry Alexander, 20th Century-Fox; Arthur Newmann, Republic; Neil Hellman, Hellman Theatres; Nate Winig and Louis R. Golding, Fabian divisional manager, ex-officio.

Variety Club members presented Latta with two silver candelabra sets.

Berkowitz Honored At '25-30' Induction

The 25-30 Club met Friday night at the Grand Street Boys Club here to honor Mike Berkowitz, its president, at a testimonial dinner. The club consists of New York projectionists who have been in the industry for 25-30 years.

Berkowitz was installed in office, along with Morris J. Rotker, vice-president; Henry Weinberger, financial secretary; M. I. Klapholz, secretary; Michael Polito, sergeant-at-arms, and Joseph Abrams, Robert Sanders and Joseph Fitterman, trustees.

'Plasma Premiere' Is Praised in Editorial

CINCINNATI, Jan. 30.—Last week's premiere here of United Artists' "Three Russian Girls," open only to contributors to the Red Cross blood bank, drew favorable editorial comment in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

"It is the first of its kind in the nation," said the editorial, "and quite certainly there will be many more like it. Hollywood, the motion picture industry and the theatres of the nation already have made innumerable contributions to the war effort. Film personages have worked tirelessly in many war drives. No longer is it a novelty for theatres to stage special shows for scrap collections, War Bond sales and other war-useful projects."

WB Servicing Films To 50 Canada Camps

ST. JOHN, N. B., Jan. 30.—Warner Bros. is now servicing 16 mm. films to 50 military depots and camps in the St. John area, in addition to supplying regular 35 mm. prints to 15 other depots, the company's local branch discloses.

The narrow-gauge film is handled by service clubs such as the K. of C., YMCA, Salvation Army and CLWS, while the standard size is shown mostly in special service theatres. Only service camps outside the United States are being serviced by Warners with 16 mm. prints.

Feminine Booker Is First

ST. JOHN, N. B., Jan. 30.—Canada's first feminine film booker is claimed by the Warner exchange here. She is Flora H. Thurston.

'Butler Sister' $16,110 Over Par in L. A.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30.—Rain made the weekend a bit soggy here but didn't dampen "His Butler's Sister," coupled with "Rookies in Burma," which scored a $52,500 in the Pantages-Hill Street tandem, against a $36,390 average. "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" was strong in the Fox West Coast Chinese-Loew's State-Uptown set-up, getting $57,000. Soft spot of the week was FWC's Egyptian-Los Angeles-Ritz string, where Mae West's "The Heat's On," coupled with Ted Lewis' "Is Everybody Happy" dived to $25,900.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 26:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
CARTHAY CIRCLE — (1,516) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $11,700. Average, $11,880)
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average, $15,692).
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
"Is Everybody Happy?" (Col.)
EGYPTIAN — (1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average, $10,590).
"Seventh Victim" (RKO)
"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
HAWAII (1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $3,200. (Average, $5,865).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
HILLSTREET (2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average, $19,544)
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average, $23,577)
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
"Is Everybody Happy?" (Col.)
LOS ANGELES (2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average, $14,354)
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
PANTAGES — (2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average, $16,846)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average, $11,115)
"No Time for Love" (Para.) 3rd week
"Hands Across the Border" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average, $21,307)
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
"Is Everybody Happy?" (Col.)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,400. (Average, $9,873)
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS — (2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $20,800. (Average, $27,967)
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
UPTOWN (1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average, $10,318)
"Destination Tokyo" (W. B.)
WARNER BROS.' HOLLYWOOD — (3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $11,636. (Average, $16,362)
"Destination Tokyo" (W. B.)
WARNER BROS.' DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $13,949. (Average, $18,480)
"Destination Tokyo" (W. B.)
WARNER BROS.' WILTERN — (2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $10,284. (Average, $17,162)

IMPPA Negotiations Are Held in Abeyance

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—The Independent Motion Picture Producers Association decided at a weekend meeting to hold in abeyance negotiations with guilds and crafts, pending the outcome of parallel negotiations by major companies.

This course promises to avert a repetition of the alleged past penalization of small producers by the special rates fixed by labor groups.

Hollywood

Hollywood, Jan. 30

PARAMOUNT will star Betty Rhodes in the studio's next Technicolor musical short, "Half-Way to Heaven." . . . Michael Curtiz has resumed direction of "Janie" at Warners after a week's shutdown due to flu cases. . . . Samuel Goldwyn has signed Ernest Fegte to an art designing contract. His first assignment will be on "Treasure Chest," Technicolor picture starring Bob Hope. . . . Brian Donlevy returns to Paramount after a suspension to play the skipper of a "hell ship" in "Two Years Before the Mast."

•

Robert Paige has been zoomed again by Universal. He has been assigned the male lead opposite Deanna Durbin in "Caroline," first Technicolor picture for Miss Durbin. Paige will also sing for the first time on the screen. . . . M-G-M now has "National Velvet" before the cameras. Clarence Brown is directing for Producer Pandro Berman. . . . Leon Fromkess has added Binnie Barnes and William Frawley to PRC's "Ministrel Man" cast. . . . Anne Gwynne and David Bruce are co-starred in Jean Yarbrough's "Moon Over Las Vegas" at Universal. . . . Damon Runyon has selected June Haver for the feminine lead in his "Irish Eyes Are Smiling," at 20th-Fox.

•

Republic has allocated a $200,000 *budget for exploitation of "The Monster and the Lady." . . . John Campbell, who played one of the five brothers in "The Sullivans," now goes into "Sweet and Low Down," Benny Goodman musical in preparation at 20th-Fox. . . . Producer Sam Bischoff has assigned Marguerite Chapman the feminine lead opposite Kay Kyser in the band leader's as yet untitled musical, at Columbia. . . . Eleanor Powell and David Lichine do a "boogie-woogie" ballet in Andrew Stone's "Sensations of* 1944."

•

Cary Grant's second picture under his present two-picture commitment with RKO-Radio will probably be "I Am Thinking of My Darling," a comedy about New Yorkers casting aside all inhibitions. Grant's first at the studio will be "None But the Lonely Heart," with David Hempstead producing and Clifford Odets directing.

U. A. Board Meets Resume This Week

A series of meetings of the United Artists board of directors begun here last week to discuss a re-definition of executive authority of top company officers, will be continued this week, it was learned Friday.

Mary Pickford, who attended Friday's board meeting, is expected to be present at one or more of the sessions this week. George Bagnall, U. A. vice-president who came from the Coast for the meetings, will remain here until they are concluded.

Returns to Morris

Mildred Webber has returned to the William Morris Agency, following a leave of absence. She will resume her former activities of managing performers for films and the stage.

Adopt 8-Point Industry Program on War Effort

(*Continued from page* 1)

To express the appreciation of the Treasury Department, the Fourth War Loan committee and the War Activities Committee for the job being done; to outline activities planned from now to the end of the campaign; to stress the importance for the "top man" in each territory to assume responsibility and leadership for all industry war effort; to emphasize the importance of closer relationship between motion picture state chairmen and the Treasury Department War Finance Committee chairmen in each community—Ricketson suggested that each state chairman should be a member of the Treasury state organization.

Also: to impress upon each state group the importance of increasing the number of bond issuing agents; to point out the immediate importance to exhibitors for running bond trailers and WAC reels; to develop a more coordinated relationship with the Hollywood Victory Committee in connection with stars and personalities used in various war effort campaigns, and, to assist industry committees in the various territories in breaking "bottle necks" and to lend an ear to troubles and problems confronting local groups.

The 12 industry executives will take the program on the following itinerary, on dates still to be determined:

George Schaefer: New Haven, Boston, Providence. Leonard Goldenson: Albany, Buffalo, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh. Robert Mochrie: Wilmington, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Wheeling. Dan Michalove and Oscar Doob: Charlotte, Charleston, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Miami, Birmingham, Nashville, Memphis. Abe Montague: Little Rock, New Orleans, Oklahoma City. Joe Vogel: Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville, Detroit.

Major Leslie Thompson: Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati. John Harris: Minneapolis, Milwaukee. Herman Robbins: Omaha, Des Moines, St. Louis, Kansas City. Harry Kalmine: Butte, Denver, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, and Herman Wobber: Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, San Francisco.

Allied Issuing Agency

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—Allied Theatres of Illinois is now the offical war bond issuing agency for its members, president Jack Kirsch has announced. Secretary Joe Abramson has been placed in charge of bond releasing.

See Lifting of Ban On Atrocity Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

the weekend that no final word had been received from Washington yet on the relaxation ban as it affects fiction stories used in films, but inquiries earlier in the week regarding RKO's "This Is My Brother" had elicited an indication that the order lifting the bars would be forthcoming.

On Friday RKO announced "Brother," based on Louis Paul's novel, for production by Dudley Nichols, with other pictures on schedule sidetracked to make way for it.

Motion pictures, Cunningham said, will follow newspapers and radio in Washington decisions which last week authorized those media to deal frankly with factual stories about Jap atrocities and prisoners' escapes, except as to the exact means and routes of escape, so long as documentation is complete.

Clamping down of the War Department lid on picturing Jap atrocities led last November to revisions of many scripts in preparation, deferring of starting dates for some pictures, and revision of others. The explanation generally accepted at that time was the Washington belief that the depiction of atrocities would incite the enemy to more barbarous measures. Although RKO is the first to announce a Jap atrocity picture in the wake of Washington's changed attitude, other companies are expected to follow shortly with similar properties.

'Eyre' Screened Feb. 2

"Jane Eyre" will be trade shown Wednesday, Feb. 2, Tom Connors, 20th-Fox vice-president in charge of distribution, has announced here. The screenings will be held in all of the company's exchanges except in Portland and St. Louis, where outside theatres will be used.

Allied and Other Groups Meet Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

consideration of that subject will be in the discussion of a plan prepared by Myers for an exhibitors' "united front" in fighting adverse legislation in the future.

Beyond that, the program for the annual meeting will be confined largely to organization affairs, including the setting up of a budget for the year and the election of officers. On Myers' arrival here today, he said there had been no indication whether the present officers would all be re-elected or some new nominations made. The presidency, it was indicated, would depend upon whether M. A. Rosenberg was willing to continue in office for another year.

Coast Executives at Meet

In conference with Allied board of directors on the consent decree, tax unity and other pertinent matters will be Hugh Bruen, Rotus Harvey and Robert Poole, executives of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, and representatives of Independent exhibitors of New England, Allied of Iowa-Nebraska, the MPTO of Virginia, and North Central and Allied of the Northwest, both of Minneapolis. Other groups also may attend, Myers has indicated. In New York, the Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors announced that it had been invited by Allied to be represented at the conference. Jesse Stein, president, and Julius Charnow, vice-president, will be the UIE delegates.

Allied will be represented at the conference by its executive committee, consisting of M. A. Rosenberg, H. A. Cole, Sidney E. Samuelson, Martin G. Smith, Jack Kirsch, Roy E. Harrold, W. L. Ainsworth and Myers.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war bond campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

S. H. RICH, Rich Theatre, Mo[illegible]pelier, Ida.
DON E. WILSON, Roxy Theatre, Holbrook, Ariz.
W. P. NEAL, State Theatre, Tallahassee, Fla.
W. W. COOLEY, Egyptian Theatre, Seattle.
W. LEE BYERS, Ritz Theatre, Clarksburg, W. Va.
R. C. GLASSMAN, Orpheum Theatre, Ogden, Utah.
CARTER S. TROYER, State Theatre, Bottineau, N. D.
WAYNE PATTERSON, Reel Theatre, Hobbs, N. M.
NORMAN E. ROWE, Plaza Theatre, Windsor, Conn.
GLENN D. HEINRICH, Regent Theatre, Rochester, N. Y.
C. J. RUSSELL, JR., Bangor Opera House, Bangor, Me.
BERNARD GONDER, Grand Theatre, Friendsville, Md.
TOM BRENNAN, Fox Theatre, Laramie, Wyo.
JOANNA BACKES, Fox Theatre, Sterling, Col.
W. G. FUSSELL, Lyric Theatre, Bladensboro, N. C.

Exhibitor Seeks Priority on 'Rhine'

MONTREAL, Jan. 30.—A suit over clearance priority on Warner's "Watch on the Rhine" was started in Superior Court here late last week. The plaintiff, Kent Theatres, Ltd., is asking for an injunction to restrain Warners from licensing, and United Amusements from exhibiting the film at the Snowdon Theatre here.

Kent's action is said to have been based on a contractual right for priority over the Snowdon for showing all Warner films within the zone in which the Kent and the Snowdon are situated. The defense contends the contract had expired and, moreover, that the Kent and Snowdon are no longer in the same zone.

Consent Award Is Entered in N. Y.

A consent award by stipulation has been entered at the New York tribunal in the clearance complaint of Monseigneur Enterprises, Inc., operating the Forum Theatre, Metuchen, N. J., against the decree consenting companies.

The stipulation states that the present seven-day clearance of the Paramount, Oxford and Strand theatres, Plainfield, N. J., over the Forum shall be reduced to one day. It further says that the present 14-day clearance of the RKO State, RKO Rivoli and the Opera House, New Brunswick, is reasonable and shall remain.

Dunne with Hunter

Chris J. Dunne, formerly with the New York *World-Telegram* advertising staff, has joined the Eastern advertising department of Hunter Publications, publishers of *Screenland, Silver Screen* and *Movie Show.*

How to Make Money with Pictures



Take this pen being held out to you . . . by our favorite pin-up boy . . . sign up your John Henry . . . and let the Prize Baby start directing traffic to your theatre . . . that's your elementary lesson in the fine science of show-selling . . . and that's all there is . . . You are now a graduate . . . and you've found out how to go all out . . . to get 'em all in . . . in an endless chain of seat-selling . . . You sell today's show on the outside . . . (posters, heralds, etc.) . . . so that you can sell tomorrow's show on the inside . . . (trailers, lobby displays, etc.) . . . How can you go wrong? . . . You've got 'em coming and going . . . Hurry! . . . Look at those people going by . . . Hurry!

4TH WAR LOAN — MARCH OF DIMES

NATIONAL Screen SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

STANDARD ACCESSORIES • TRAILERS • SPECIAL ACCESSORIES

Short Subject Reviews

'This Is Worth Fighting For'

(CDVO Film Bureau, New York)

Made for the family of John Q. Public, whose services are needed by the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office, and designed for utilitarian rather than entertainment purposes, the production flaws do not mar to any great extent the message of "This Is Worth Fighting For." Lowell Thomas, commentator, contributes the only professional performance, the rest of the cast being volunteers. The film tells the story of the Smith family, all members of which are in some branch of CDVO-City Patrol Corps, Consumer Service, Nurses Aide, Messenger Service and Junior Recreation group. Made for the CDVO in New York by American Pictures, the picture was directed by Harold Doane. Running time, 18 mins.

'The Pelican and The Snipe'

(RKO Pathe)

This makes two worthy additions to the Disney cast of characters. The pelican sleeps atop a lighthouse and is protected from somnambulistic misadventures by his watchful but weary little friend, the snipe. After rescue from a whale the snipe devises an anchor which lands the larger bird at the bottom of the sea and incurs his wrath, but repentance comes when he imitates aircraft in a night flight and is awakened by a bomb. Colorful and ingenious. Running time, 9 mins.

'Wings in Record Time'

(Universal)

This is an interesting short recording the building of a bomber in record time at an aircraft plant in the Midwest. A group of workers contribute their services over a weekend and construct the ship from the first beam to the last wheel. The film is well-directed and the narration good. Running time, 9 mins.

Films, Ads Up 17% In Latin America

(Continued from page 1)

trade is due in part to the increased war-time prosperity which has made it a better market and in part to its post-war possibilities. The CIAA survey indicated that the United States film industry will be one of the more substantial advertisers in that field.

Stars at Queens Rally

Jeannette MacDonald and Laraine Day made personal appearances at outdoor war bond "Invasion Rallies" in Queens Saturday. In addition to Misses MacDonald and Day, bands and singers entertained, under the auspices of the industry's War Activities Committee.

Mildred Holland Dies

Mildred Holland, former stage and screen actress, died the latter part of last week, in Bellevue Hospital. She was 78 years old. Funeral services were held yesterday at 1 p.m. in the Walter B. Cocke Chapel at 117 West 72nd St.

First Reaction to Decree Is Frigid

(Continued from page 1)

plication of the Umpi cancellation schedule were reported exclusively in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Dec. 14 and Jan. 6. The proposal provides for a 20 per cent cancellation for theatres paying $100 or less per picture; 10 per cent for those paying from $101 to $200, and five per cent for those paying more than $200 per picture.

The distributors also are understood to have agreed to seek prior court approval for additions to their circuits except under specified circumstances, such as where a house is acquired as a replacement.

These were three of the major stumbling blocks to the negotiations of the revised decree, although there were many other features in which exhibitors were importantly interested, including a number on which Department officials have taken a strong stand — how successfully is not yet apparent.

Distribution of the proposals among the theatre men was held back by the failure of the distributors to send a sufficient number of copies to the Department, but it is expected that copies will have been sent to all of the organizations by tomorrow. A number of the organizations, however, did receive copies over the weekend, including Allied, which will be the first association to meet for consideration of the matter, opening its sessions in Chicago today.

Industry Goes Well Over 'Dimes' Quota

(Continued from page 1)

Nicholas M. Schenck, national chairman of the theatres' drive, said, "In setting a national goal of $3,000,000, we had not the slightest doubt that the film industry would perform as it has in all past drives. The whole success of the campaign is a testimonial to the hard work of thousands of theatre owners, managers and employees."

"I believe that the national total will reach a minimum of three and a half million dollars," stated E. L. Alperson. "RKO Theatres alone are reporting an average of 33⅓ per cent more than in 1943. Home Office collections have tripled. State chairmen with whom I have talked, are similarly optimistic."

In Portland, Oregon, two hundred theatres made collections as compared with 128 last year. Moe Horwitz, owner of the Falls Theatre, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, seating less than 1,000, had a week's collection of $675—57 per cent more than the last drive. His other theatres, in Cleveland, are also ahead. N. Dow Thompson, state chairman for Nebraska, reported that Reno and Las Vegas houses doubled the 1943 total. Loew's Theatres announced a total of $324,764 for the first seven days of the campaign, representing 11 per cent of the national goal of $3,000,000. Charles Kurtzman, Loew's Northeastern division manager, reported that Loew's State and Orpheum Theatres, alone, would exceed $20,000.

'Bernadette' May Sell For 70-30% at $1.10

Twentieth Century - Fox home office executives are understood to be discussing rental terms of 70-30 percent for "Bernadette," although none would comment here at the weekend. Contract calls for a minimum admission of $1.10 evenings and 75 cents for matinees, showings to run continuously with roadshow bookings before general release.

AFM, Networks to Negotiate New Pacts

Expiration of the contracts of the four major networks with the American Federation of Musicians tomorrow will not lead to a strike, according to James C. Petrillo, AFM head.

Petrillo had originally forbidden the various locals to negotiate for new contracts for chain broadcasting, but he has now revealed that negotiations will begin immediately with the networks and musicians' locals in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, cities from which most network programs originate. Agreements subsequently reached will be retroactive to tomorrow.

The networks, according to Petrillo, have agreed that contracts may be opened at any time for discussion pertaining directly to the AFM's interests and that his right to call a strike at any time will remain part of any agreement. He denied that he had held a strike threat over the networks in connection with his fight against the use of recordings.

Petrillo Named in $500,000 Damage Suit

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, was named as one of five defendants in a $500,000 damage suit filed in Supreme Court here last Friday by David Nederlander, a stockholder of Lafayette Productions, in behalf of himself and the Lafayette Theatre in Detroit. The action charges coercion, under threat of strikes, into employing union musicians.

Elmer Davis Reported Resigning from OWI

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. — Elmer Davis may resign as head of the Office of War Information as a result of a clash with Robert E. Sherwood, head of the overseas branch of the OWI, it was reported at the weekend. Byron Price, director of censorship, may take over the public information work of OWI in a resultant administrative revision, it was learned.

Davis is said to have asked for the dismissal of three OWI officials in the New York overseas branch office. Sherwood refused and brought the dispute to the White House, where, it is said, the decisions on administrative revision now rest.

Agnew Cites 6,000 Deals

"The City That Stopped Hitler—Heroic Stalingrad" has been sold to date on 6,000 independent deals, according to Neil Agnew, Paramount general sales manager.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 30

THE Screen Publicists Guild has reelected Teet Carle, president; and elected Charles Daggett, vice-president; Nat James, secretary; Robert Joseph, treasurer; Phil Gersdorf and Bill Rice, finance committee men; Bill Bloecher and Leslie Mason, delegates to the Conference of Studio Unions, and George Schaeffer to the editorial board of the CSU *Bulletin*, organization publication.

•

David O. Selznick has scheduled "Tales of Passion and Romance," described as "a film anthology in truncated pattern," for summer production. Sequences will be directed by Alfred Hitchcock, William Dieterle and others, and will star Joan Fontaine, Ingrid Bergman, Jennifer Jones, Dorothy McGuire, Shirley Temple and Vivian Leigh. The film will have a running time of between three and four hours.

•

Mervyn LeRoy has been signed by Frank Ross to direct his independent production of Lloyd C. Douglas' "The Robe" for RKO Radio release about Christmas or early in 1945. It is estimated filming will require six months, with a number of scenes to be photographed in Mexico.

•

M-G-M's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" will be shot in Technicolor. Arthur Hornblow will produce. Margaret O'Brien will play Little Eva; Lena Horne, Liza, and Lewis Stone, St. Clair. Paramount produced a version in 1918 and Universal in 1927.

•

War bond purchases of $1,250,000 by 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. have been allotted to the Studio War Finance Committee. Employes of the studio subscribed $386,965 in bonds during the first 10 days of the drive, according to Fred Metzler, 20th-Fox studio chairman.

•

John Joseph appointed J. W. Dailey at the weekend as Universal Studio publicity director, succeeding the late Terry Delapp. With the studio two years, Dailey came to Hollywood in 1940 after 18 years' experience on St. Louis and New Orleans newspapers.

•

Twentieth Century-Fox has acquired a share of Hunt Stromberg's contract with Michael O'Shea. He will make two pictures annually for 20th-Fox starting with "Something for the Boys."

•

Monogram has budgeted $250,000 each for advertising campaigns on "Women in Bondage" and "Where Are Your Children?"

Blumenstock Adds Post

Mort Blumenstock, in charge of Warners' advertising-publicity in the East, has added Carl Post, formerly engaged in press work, to Warners' public relations staff in St. Louis. He will temporarily work with Don Walker, Prairie District representative at Kansas City, while getting established.

He will leave New York tomorrow to assume his new duties.

"And I'm aiming to be one of the HONORED HUNDRED!"



WITH THIS FIGHTING SHIELD

16,000 American exhibitors pledge their heart and hand to do a job worthy of our lads on the fighting fronts. A Bond for every theatre seat in the nation is our way of saying "Thanks" to boys who are ready to die for the land we love. Day and night we're in this fight! With everything we've got, we back the attack!

War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, New York City

"Hot...smash show at the Broadway Paramount . . . House did highest non-holiday Saturday in its history . . .Very fancy gross on the first seven days."
—*VARIETY*



"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"

Starring
EDDIE BRACKEN
BETTY HUTTON
with Diana Lynn
William Demarest • Porter Hall
and "McGinty" and "The Boss".
Written and Directed by
PRESTON STURGES

The Greatest Reviews in Years
Have Greeted This Terrific Comedy From Paramount

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4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 22 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1944 TEN CENTS

PRC Plans to Distribute on National Scale

Young Will Head Parent; Fromkess, Films

By RED KANN

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—PRC intends to nationalize distribution as its next expansion move. Probable course will be the purchase of existing franchises similar to the recent deal whereby the company acquired Omaha and Des Moines exchanges which it currently operates.



Leon Fromkess

In formulation, also, is a plan under which a new unit called PRC, Inc., will become the top company of assorted film and theatrical realty interests of the controlling Young financial

(*Continued on page 10*)

2,700 Theatres Have Set Bond Premieres

To date at the half-way point in the 4th War Loan Drive, 2,700 bond premieres have been set in theatres, with more to come, compared to 1,400 for the entire 3rd War Loan. "Free Movie Days" in the current drive have already hit 2,412, far in excess of the figure in the previous campaign for which no totals are available.

Summing up the achievements of

(*Continued on page 10*)

War Dep't Confirms Mayer Appointment

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The War Department today formally announced the appointment of Arthur L. Mayer, New York exhibitor and member of the industry's War Activities Committee as civilian consultant on motion pictures, to work in connection with war films which are being distributed to war plants. MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported Mayer's appointment on Jan. 13.

A motion picture branch has been

(*Continued on page 10*)

Chicago Exhibitor Meeting Appraises Decree Provisions

CHICAGO, Jan. 31.—Representatives of 10 exhibitor organizations heard an analysis of the new consent decree proposal of the five major companies made by Abram F. Myers, chairman and general counsel of the Allied States Association, at the Blackstone Hotel here today. No official statements were issued by the exhibitor leaders following the meeting, but there were unmistakable evidences that many of the organization officials feel the present decree draft leaves much to be desired insofar as the independent exhibitor is concerned.

The officials will report back to their own units before preparing formal statements of their views on the decree to present to Assistant Attorney General Tom Clark in Washington.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Ban Eased on Film Equipment Metals

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The War Production Board announced here yesterday that iron and steel would be released for various civilian products, including motion picture projectors and sound equipment, but it was not expected today that the increased production would be substantial or immediate.

Officials of the WPB's theatre service division explained that the prob-

(*Continued on page 10*)

Committee to Steer Allied Decree Stand

Chicago, Jan. 31.—Indications are that Allied States' board of directors will appoint a small committee to study the consent decree proposals of the five distribution companies after the board has examined the decree draft and received the report and analysis on it by Abram F. Myers, chairman and general counsel.

The committee would be empowered to present Allied's views on the proposals to Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark, a step which may not be taken for several days after the Allied meeting here.

$4,000,000 High For 'March of Dimes' Is Now Predicted

The film industry's March of Dimes campaign committee yesterday predicted that the $3,000,000 voluntarily-established industry quota this year will probably reach $4,000,000. Many large increases were reported from both circuits and independents to committee headquarters.

Charles P. Skouras, head of National Theatres and also of the industry's 4th War Loan Drive, revealed that his company's Fox West Coast theatres alone collected $255,000 from patrons, compared with $150,000 col-

(*Continued on page 10*)

252 of 350 Arbitration Cases Involved Clearance

Three hundred and fifty arbitration cases were filed in the 31 tribunals in three years of consent decree arbitration operations, ended yesterday, under the American Arbitration Association.

Seventy-two per cent, or 252 complaints involved clearance, 35 were specific-run, 22 on designated-run and the remaining 41 represented combinations of two or all three of the aforementioned complaints.

Exhibitors won 62 per cent or 143 of the 231 awards handed down, with distributors winning 88 dismissals. Ninety cases were withdrawn, indicating that exhibitors had obtained some relief before hearings. In most instances terms of settlements were not

(*Continued on page 10*)

3,214 from Warners In Armed Services

There are now 3,214 former Warner Bros. employes in the armed forces; 41 are women, Ralph Budd, Warner personnel director in New York reveals. Sixteen have been killed in action, four are missing.

Warners' Coast studios have sent 712 of the total with the Warner Theatres' Philadelphia circuit area making the second highest contribution, 554. Newark circuit division sent 281, Warner exchanges 251, and the home office 219.

The number in service from the Pittsburgh circuit zone is 213, from Chicago, 207; Washington, 190; New

(*Continued on page 6*)

Jap Atrocity Films' Cycle In the Making

War Dep't Revelations End Anti-Jap Film Ban

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Washington approval to proceed with pictures showing Japanese atrocities was received today by the Office of War Information headquarters in Hollywood, as forecast in today's MOTION PICTURE DAILY, from OWI overseas division director Robert E. Sherwood. With the lifting of the ban, the trickle of weekend announcements by studios rushing Jap atrocity pictures into production was expected to swell to cycle proportions.

Sherwood's communication, lifting the barrier which was set up three months ago, states the Washington view now is that "use of atrocity material will be useful overseas, especially after the war in Europe has ended, as a means of keeping alive an understanding of our enemy and the will to defeat him."

Sherwood said the OWI assumes

(*Continued on page 10*)

British to Probe Picture 'Monopoly'

LONDON, Jan. 31. — Presumably alarmed by the spreading activities of J. Arthur Rank, the British Board of Trade's Film Council has appointed four of its "independent" members to "investigate measures necessary to counteract the danger of a film trade monopoly."

On the committees are Albert Palache, London banker, chairman; Sir Walter Citrine, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress; Philip Guadella, author and historian, who is

(*Continued on page 10*)

Finds for Majors In E. M. Loew Case

BOSTON, Jan. 31.—Special Master Hugh McLellan, former Federal judge, has filed a report favorable to the defendant distributors in the case of E. M. Loew against eight distributing companies in which Loew alleged violation of clearance in what is known as the Winchester Case.

Loew claimed that theatres in Malden, Medford and Arlington were being given releases in violation of clearance rules. McLellan finds that

(*Continued on page 10*)

Johnston, Broidy At Sales Meetings

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Steve Broidy, Monogram's general sales manager, left here today for Chicago to preside, on Feb. 5 and 6, at a Midwest sales conference of franchise holders, exchange managers and salesmen and out of which will come details of the company's forthcoming "Fifty Years of Service" sales drive in observance of president W. Ray Johnston's 30 years in the film business and the 20 years of sales manager Broidy.

Those who will attend the Chicago conferences are Irving Mandel and B. Eisenberg of the Chicago office; William Onie, Cincinnati; Nate Schultz, Cleveland; Leo Blank, Des Moines; W. Barker, Omaha; Wm. Hurlbut and M. H. Starr, Detroit; C. Harthill, Indianapolis; Leland Allen, Kansas City; C. W. Trampe, Milwaukee; Tom Burke, Minneapolis, and George West and Barney Rosenthal, of St. Louis.

Johnston Will Preside

Johnston will leave Hollywood Sunday to preside at the New York meetings, on Feb. 12-13. Participants will include Harry Thomas, Eastern sales manager; H. E. Morey, supervisor of exchanges; Lloyd L. Lind, assistant to Broidy; J. J. Felder of the New York exchange; Robert Adler, Buffalo; Herman Rifkin and Ben Abrams, Boston; H. L. Berkson, Buffalo; Ben Welansky and Mark Goldman, Pittsburgh; Sam Rosen, Philadelphia, and Harry Brown, Washington.

Monogram has earmarked $250,000 for promotions of "Where Are Your Children?" and "Women in Bondage," to be expended on trade journal, radio, fan magazine and theatre cooperative advertising. The company says it is putting as much as $10,000 into individual campaigns with some of theatres now playing the two subjects.

Warners Sued on 'Moscow' Sequences

Warners was named defendant in an accounting action filed in Federal court here yesterday, in which the Madison Square Garden Corp. seeks to restrain distribution and exhibition of "Mission to Moscow."

The complaint alleges that scenes which occurred in Madison Square Garden during rallies staged by the German-American Front, in 1939, and by the American Soviet Friendship League in 1942, were used without authorization.

Gillham Sets 'Lady' Field Itinerary

Robert M. Gillham, Paramount adpublicity director, plans a field trip following a district managers and field exploitation men's meeting here late this week.

He will visit Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis and other places to set advance campaigns for engagements of "Lady in the Dark," and probably will conclude his trip with a visit to the company's Coast studio.

Personal Mention

JOSEPH BERNHARD, general manager of Warner Theatres will leave here tonight for conferences at the studio with H. M. WARNER, JACK L. WARNER and CHARLES EINFELD.

•

SYLVAN GOLDFINGER, managing director of the Telenews Theatre, Chicago, is expected to return to that city on Feb. 15 from Coast visits. He is accompanied by MRS. GOLDFINGER.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic president, is in Dallas en route from Hollywood to New York. MRS. GRAINGER is in Hollywood from New York.

•

FRED L. LYNCH, director of advertising and publicity for Radio City Music Hall, returned Friday from two weeks on the Coast.

•

HAL KORDA, former M-G-M publicist, recently returned from Hollywood, is doing a series of film stories for Hillman fan magazines.

•

ART GOULD, general manager of Stern Theatres, Chicago, will be inducted into the armed forces soon.

•

JOE KOPPEL, booker-film buyer for Lasker Theatres, Chicago, has returned from Phoenix, Ariz.

•

ARTHUR SCHOENSTADT, Chicago circuit owner, has returned from Tucson, Ariz.

•

HARRY THOMAS, Monogram Eastern sales manager, is in Cleveland.

•

MARTIN QUIGLEY left for the Coast last night for a visit of several weeks.

BRYAN FOY, 20th-Fox producer, left yesterday for the Coast.

•

LT. WALTER E. STARCK, formerly with Warner Theatres in Milwaukee, has been awarded the air medal for meritorious service in combat flights over Europe.

•

DAN LUBLINER, manager of the Monroe, Chicago, is in the Hines Hospital recovering from an operation. MRS. EDWARD TRINZ is acting manager.

•

RUDOLPH BERGER, M-G-M Washington and Charlotte district manager, has been named a member of the board of visitors for Washington hospitals, by the District of Columbia Commissioners.

•

JOHN GENNARO of Universal's tabulating department recently was feted by associates at the Hickory House prior to his imminent reporting for Naval service.

•

GEORGE ARCHIBALD, who recently relinquished the position of director of the British Film Service here, will leave for London next Monday.

•

DAVID ROSE, British managing director for Paramount, is expected to arrive here Thursday or Friday from the Coast.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, M-G-M exchange operations head, is back at his desk after a week's illness.

•

MARIE WEBER, receptionist at Universal, will leave soon to join the U. S. Cadet Nurses Corps.

Columbia Meeting Opens at Warwick

Branch and division managers of Columbia Pictures will meet at the Hotel Warwick today for the first session of a three-day conference with general sales manager A. Montague to discuss distribution and promotion plans for "Cover Girl," "None Shall Escape," "Curly" and "Address Unknown." More than 50, including home office executives and division and branch managers from all areas, except the West, will attend.

Executive vice-president Jack Cohn will open today's session. Addresses will also be made by Rube Jackter, assistant general sales manager; Joseph A. McConville, foreign manager; Lou Weinberg, Lou Astor and Max J. Weisfeldt, sales executives. Home office executives who will be present include N. B. Spingold, Louis J. Barbano, Leo Jaffe, Mort Wormser, Hank Kaufman, Irving Moross, Maurice Grad, George Josephs, Bill Brennan, Irving Sherman, Frank P. Rosenberg, director of advertising, publicity and exploitation; Hortense Schorr, Vincent Borrelli, Joe Freiberg, Sidney Singerman and Seth Raisler.

Fail to Act on Appeal Board Terms

Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard stated yesterday that no petition has been received from the Department of Justice at Washington yet for a hearing on the extension of the terms of the three arbitration appeal board judges' terms, which expired yesterday. Prior reports from Washington quoted Department officials as saying the hearing would be sought yesterday.

Federal court attaches here pointed out that the appeal board judges could continue to function despite the expiration of their terms under an arrangement which would make their reappointment retroactive to Jan. 31, thus validating services performed after that date.

Fund Holds Benefit

The 62nd Actors Fund of America benefit show was presented at the Alvin Theatre at the weekend. Leading entertainers of film, stage and radio including Jimmy Durante, Allan Jones and Ted Lewis, appeared on the program.

RKO Books 'Smart Guy'

Monogram's "Smart Guy" has been booked by the RKO Metropolitan circuit here and will open Feb. 16.

Senate Bill Would Exempt Child Actors

Washington, Jan. 31.—The Senate Committee on Education and Labor today had before it a bill to exempt child actors in motion pictures or theatrical productions from the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, but there was no indication whether the legislation would receive any consideration this session.

The bill was introduced last week by Senator Bilbo of Mississippi.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Greer Garson - Walter Pidgeon
in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
"MADAME CURIE"
GALA STAGE REVUE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600



RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
in Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Michele MORGAN
Jack HALEY
Frank SINATRA
"Higher and Higher"

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
M-G-M's
KAY KYSER in
'Swing Fever'
Marilyn MAXWELL
William GARGAN
In Person
HOWARD SHELTON
HARRIET HOCTOR
LOUIS JORDAN and his Tympany Five

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Jan. 31

PAT CASEY, producers' labor contact, has arrived here from New York for studio conferences.

•

Chairman Henry Ginsberg of the War Finance Committee, has announced that the first half of the War Loan drive in the studios netted sales over $9,000,000. Establishing a new record, Warners took the lead with a corporate purchase of $1,500,000 and employes' purchases of $275,128. M-G-M, 20th-Fox and RKO follow in order.

•

Monogram's president, Ray Johnston will leave Sunday to spend several months in the East on the sales drive commemorating his 30th anniversary. He will attend regional meeting in New York Feb. 12-13.

•

Jack Dietz, Sam Katzman's partner in the production of Monogram films, will permanently reside here. He has moved his business headquarters to Katzman's office at the studio.

•

Monogram has completed a deal with Sebastian Cristillo, Edward Sherman and Albert R. Blum of Biltmore Productions for the release of two of that company's pictures.

•

Monogram today announced the filming of "In His Steps," Charles M. Sheldon's novel, with either Scott R. Dunlap or Lindsley Parsons handling production.

•

Lou Lusty has joined Vanguard Films and been given a production assignment with Dore Schary on "Double Furlough."

•

RKO has signed Niven Busch to a producer-writer contract. He was formerly story editor and assistant to Samuel Goldwyn.

•

Ed Saunders, M-G-M Western sales manager, arrived here at the weekend for his annual studio visit.

•

William Saal, Republic producer, left here yesterday for the East.

Clearance Award Modified on Appeal

Th arbitration appeal board here yesterday reported on a decision affirming the award, with modification, of Harry G. Erbs, arbitrator at St. Louis, in the clearance complaint of the Apollo Theatre Corp., operating the Apollo, St. Louis, against the five decree companies and the St. Louis Amusement Co. and Union Southern Co., as intevenors.

The award stipulated that the proceeding in so far as it affects Loew's, Union Southern and any theatres other than the Tivoli West End, Pageant and Apollo shall be dismissed. It further provides that the maximum clearance which may be granted on 20th-Fox, RKO, Paramount and Warner product to the Pageant over the Apollo shall be seven days, but not later than 24 days after the close of exhibition at the West End in the case of pictures exhibited in that theatre. Costs were assessed one-sixth each against the plaintiff, St. Louis Amusement and all distributors, except Loew's.

Supreme Court May Clear Up Tax Issue

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Litigation now pending before the Supreme Court may guide the Internal Revenue Bureau in the determination of what constitutes wages for the purpose of withholding and social security taxes, but in the meantime actors and musicians employed by motion picture studios on any but American Federation of Musicians "Form B" contracts will be considered independent contractors and as such not subject to the withholding levy.

The Bureau recently advised the major producing companies that "for the present" they could consider actors and musicians except those under the "Form B" contract as not subject to withholding. It did not advise the companies of the pending litigation, but explained that it was "unable, at this time, to rule conclusively" on the question.

Films Not Directly Involved

It was explained that the suit now in the courts does not directly involve motion picture talent but deals with the question of wages and salaries, and officials hope the decision will result in a clearer definition of those terms.

Even where a contract with an actor may be made through an agent, it was said, the actor for the time being may be considered an independent contractor. The AFM Form "B" contract names the buyer of the band as the employer, making him responsible for the withholding of the taxes.

Stagehands Confer On Salary Increase

Threat of a strike that would have closed the legitimate theatres here after last night's performances was averted at least temporarily when representatives of the stagehands' Theatrical Protective Union No. 1, in conference yesterday afternoon with the League of New York Theatres, agreed to resume negotiations today on demands for a 15 percent pay raise, paid vacations, and the increase of minimum handlers on a one-set show from four to seven.

Under the contract that expired at midnight the stagehands get from $58 to $87.50 per week.

Yesterday's meeting was held in the office of James Reilly, league president. Motion picture theatres having stage shows were not represented, inasmuch as their contract with TPU was renewed last August for a year.

'Sullivan' Shows Set by 20th-Fox

"The Sullivans" will be trade shown on Wednesday, Feb. 2, in New York, and Thursday, Feb. 3, at all other exchanges, Tom Connors, 20th-Fox vice-president in charge of sales, announced here yesterday.

Exceptions are Portland, Ore., and St. Louis, where screenings will be held in outside projection theatres.

'Eyre,' 'Sullivans' Ready

"Jane Eyre" and "The Sullivans" of 20th-Fox's block No. 7 will be released this month, Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution, announced here at the weekend. "Jane Eyre" will open at the Music Hall shortly.

Objects to Policy, Shoots His Brother

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 31.—Clarence Kaimann, 51, president of the Kaimann Circuit of eight neighborhood theaters and affiliated with several others, and his brother William, 52, vice-president, are both in critical condition in St. Louis hospitals as the result of a shooting which climaxed a family quarrel over the management of the houses.

Clarence Kaimann told police his brother walked into the office of the O'Fallon Theater with a revolver and shot him after complaining about a suggested change in the operation of the circuit at a meeting of the board of directors. William Kaimann fled after the shooting and later shot himself, police said.

OPA Again Tightens Tire Rationing Rules

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Serious depletion of the Nation's stockpile of tires influenced the Office of Price Administration to tighten up its regulations as to eligiblity for new tires over the weekend, and distribution beginning tomorrow will be on the basis of occupation rather than distance driven monthly.

Placing the handling of tire rationing in the hands of local boards, the OPA announced a list of eligible occupations entitled to consideration for new tire certificates, including the transportation of non-portable photographic equipment by a person regularly engaged in such activity.

Construction, repair and maintenance workers, and radio broadcast engineers and technicians also are in the select classification.

Republic Previews Of 'SeaBees' Today

Two more press previews and opening receptions will be held today in Cincinnati and Indianapolis to launch Republic's "The Fighting SeaBees" opening at the Lyric Feb. 17 and the Circle Feb. 18.

In Cincinnati, Republic branch manager George H. Kirby will be host. In Indianapolis, Republic branch manager L. W. Marriott and Ken Collins of the Circle will be hosts.

Schaefer Film Ready

Editing of George Schaefer's "Outposts Unknown" will be completed this week. Film was produced and directed by explorers Armand Dennis and his wife, Leah Roosevelt, in Africa, India and Burma. Conral Nagel did the narration, with commentary by Charles De Grandcourt. Distribution has not been set.

Henry Larner Dies

Corp. Henry Larner, former member of the Paramount home office publicity staff, died on Jan. 27 in a British military hospital in Italy, word received here yesterday revealed. Larner, who was 28 years old, was the first Paramount home office employe to enlist for overseas service.

Holdovers Scoring Heavy Grosses at B'way Theatres

Mid-term school holidays and continued clear weather are leading Broadway first-run theatres to exceptionally good business this week, with holdovers displaying impressive staying power. The seventh and final week for "Madame Curie" and a stage show at the Radio City Music Hall will yield $95,000, with $62,000 already registered for the first four days. The picture could remain on the strength of current business, but product backlog and booking commitments will bring 20th Century-Fox's "Jane Eyre" in on Thursday.

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" is registering a record-breaking $102,000 in its second week at the Paramount to exceed the initial week's gross of $100,000. The picture and a stage show headed by Johnny Long and his band, Hazel Scott and Gil Lamb will hold for a third week starting tomorrow.

"Lodger" in Second Week

The second week of "The Lodger" and a stage show featuring "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street" and others at the Roxy is estimated to gross $94,000 after an initial week's receipts of $105,000, and will hold for a third and final week. Sixth week for "A Guy Named Joe" and a stage show presenting Kathryn Grayson, Lou Holtz and Richard Himber and his orchestra, at the Capitol will do approximately $66,000, displaying neat drawing power, and will hold for a seventh week. The Strand will gross $50,000 in the fifth week of "Destination Tokyo" and a stage bill featuring Charlie Barnet and his band; the bill holds for a sixth and final week.

Claimed to be a house record for any week, including Christmas to New Year's holiday business, "Gung Ho!" is expected to exceed $45,000 on its first week at the Criterion. Release of the Jap atrocity story by the Army and Navy late last week has provided this film with a timely break, according to Universal. The picture will hold for a second week.

"Song" Headed for $40,000

"The Song of Bernadette" has been playing to practically capacity business since it opened at the Rivoli last Wednesday and is estimated to be grossing in excess of $40,000 on its first week, which is tremendous in view of the length of the picture and the size of the theatre. Third week for "Lifeboat" at the Astor is quoted at $24,000 and the picture will hold for a fourth.

"Where Are My Children?" is estimated at $17,000 for its third week at the Globe. Seventh week for "Desert Song" at the Hollywood will get $17,000 and will hold for an eighth. "Higher and Higher" is expected to gross $16,000 on its second week at the Palace. It will make way for "Three Russian Girls," United Artists release, on Friday. New Victoria with "The North Star" in its 13th week will gross $15,300 and will hold for a 14th week. "Return of the Vampire" will yield the Rialto $12,000 on the first week and will hold for a second.

'Heroes' at Stanley

"Heroes Are Made," first 1944 Russian release, will begin its American premiere at the Stanley on Friday.


There goes the RECORD!
A great motion picture wondrously conceived enthrallingly unfolded a powerful emotional experience beyond all
The Song of Bernadette
PRODUCED BY WILLIAM PERLBERG
Back the Attack
WAR LOAN


once again...
20th
CENTURY-FOX
CAMPAIGNING
DID IT!
Franz Werfel's
ng of Bernadette
ADETTE
GEORGE SEATON
FRANZ WERFEL

Hollywood Has 38 New Films In Production

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Seven finished work, and six new pictures started, to bring the total before the cameras to 38 for the week, compared to six finished, five started, and 39 shooting in the previous week. Of the six new ones started, four are "A" films. The production scene follows:

Started: "Mr. Winkle Goes to War," with Edward G. Robinson, Robert Armstrong, Ted Donaldson, Bob Haymes, Sam Flint.

Columbia

Shooting: "The Girl in the Case," "Pilebuck," "At Night We Dream."

Finished: "Address Unknown."

M-G-M

Started: "Marriage Is a Private Affair," with Lana Turner, James Craig, John Hodiak, Frances Gifford, Natalie Shafer, Hugh Marlowe, Paul Langton, Bruce Kellogg, Fred Beckner, Bill Phillips, Douglas Cowan.

Shooting: "National Velvet," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross," "Dragon Seed."

Monogram

Finished: "Murder in the Fun House," "Law Men."

Paramount

Shooting: "Bring on the Girls," "One Body Too Many," "And Now Tomorrow," "Road to Utopia." "Incendiary Blonde," "The Hitler Gang."

P.R.C.

Started: "Dixie Showboat," with Frances Langford, Guy Kibbee, Charles Butterworth, Eddie Quillan, Fifi Dorsay, Lyle Talbot, Louise Beavers, Frank Jenks, Gloria Jetter, Tony Warde, Ben Carter Choir.

Finished: "Thundering Gunslingers."

RKO-Radio

Started: "Frank Sinatra No. 2," with Frank Sinatra, George Murphy, Alan Carney, Wally Brown, Gloria DeHaven.

Shooting: "One Exciting Night," "Marine Raiders."

Republic

Shooting: "The Man From Frisco," "Cowboy and the Senorita."

Finished: "Jamboree."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Sweet and Low Down," with Benny Goodman, Lynn Bari, Jack Oakie, Linda Darnell, John Campbell, James Cardwell, June Haver, Roy Benson, Benny Goodman's orchestra, The Pied Pipers.

Shooting: "Wilson," "I Married a Soldier."

United Artists

(Jules Levey)

Shooting: "The Hairy Ape."

(Charles Rogers)

Shooting: "Song of the Open Road."

(Andrew Stone)

Shooting: "Sensations of 1944."

(Vanguard)

Shooting: "Since You Went Away."

Universal

Started: "Moon Over Las Vegas," with Anne Gwynne, David Bruce, Alan Dinehart, Vera Vague, Vivian Austin, Lee Patrick, Milburn Stone, Connie Haines and "The Sportsmen."

Shooting: "The Invisible Man's Revenge," "The Scarlet Claw," "Christmas Holiday."

Finished: "The Merry Monahans."

Warners

Shooting: "Cinderella Jones," "Make Your Own Bed," "Mr. Skeffington," "My Reputation," "The Horn Blows at Midnight," "Janie."

Finished: "The Mask of Dimitrios."

Off the Antenna

WAGE increases for approximately 300 technical workers in the NBC engineering departments in New York, Denver, Chicago, Washington, Hollywood, San Francisco and Cleveland were approved over the weekend by the War Labor Board. Increases range from $7.27 to $28.75 each per month in the minimum rates for four of the 12 labor groups in which the employes are classified; $14.57 to $15 respectively in the maximum rates for two of the groups; plus five per cent on the first $300 of the monthly salaries for all groups. Prior to the approved increases the wages for these workers ranged from a minimum of $80 a month to a maximum of $437.75 for the highest paid group. . . . The third annual "War Clinic" conducted by NBC will be held in five cities beginning Feb. 28, starting in New York, then proceeding to Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago and winding up in Los Angeles on Mar. 22. . . . General Electric workers in Schenectady who built some of the equipment for the USS Missouri witnessed the launching in New York over the weekend through the GE television station WRGB and NBC's WNBT by relay method carrying the images 150 miles.

• • •

Purely Personal:—George Schreier of the Blue Network press department is now conducting a weekly sports-caster program on WAAT in Jersey City. . . . Ted Cott, program director and Jo Ranson, publicity and special events director of WNEW will give radio courses at the College of the City of New York this semester. . . . Cecil Secrest is the new head of WHN's production staff. . . . Robert Strunsky has joined CBS as network copywriter. . . . Eugene Stinson has been named music director of WABC and Fred Carr, senior writer-producer. . . . George Herro has joined the publicity department of the Blue's Central division in Chicago as an assistant to Ell Henry. . . . Wade Barnes has joined NBC's radio-recording division. . . . S. R. Olliphant has joined the NBC legal staff. . . . Eddie Cantor sold over $36,000,000 *in war bonds on his 24 hour non-stop campaign over KPO in San Francisco and the NBC web over the weekend.*

• • •

***Program Notes:*—Louis Nizer and his book "What To Do With Germany" will be featured on WHN's "Author Meets the Critics" program tomorrow. . . . Eddie Dowling will be the star of a new comedy variety show, "Wide Horizon", to start on 31 stations of Mutual Feb. 27. . . . Westinghouse will sponsor John Nesbitt's "Passing Parade" as a separate program over the Blue network three times weekly starting March 13 with 160 stations participating, giving the M-G-M series of shorts wide promotion. . . . New CBS program featuring Walter Pidgeon in "The Star and the Story" which will have its premiere Sunday will present Irene Dunne as a guest star in a dramatization of "The Awful Truth." Alfred Newman, general music director for 20th Century-Fox, will be music director for the program. . . . Hillman magazines will sponsor a television show on the DuMont facilities tomorrow. . . . Deanna Durbin will star in a CBS "Lux Radio Theatre" adaptation of Universal's "His Butler's Sister", next Monday. . . . The Millrose track meet will be televised from the Madison Square Garden on Saturday by NBC's WNBT.**

3,214 from Warners In Armed Services

(*Continued from page* 1)

England, 159; Albany, 99; West Coast theatres, 62; Metropolitan New York theatre office, 50; and Ace Film Laboratory, 35. Sixteen Warnerites from Canadian offices are in service and eight from the company's New York warehouse.

The 16 killed in action include: Mayer Feigenbaum, Louis Demarco, Theodore Milke and Arthur R. Keiter from Philadelphia; Ray Rosser and William J. Parker, Coast studios; Jack Masterson and Russell Sucky, Cleveland; Kenneth Fay and Elliott Preble, New England; Carl Hildreth, Albany; Martin Frain, Chicago; Donald Lonkey, Minneapolis, Frank Boost, Denver; Victor Turrou, New York and Aaron Sabbult, Canada.

Goldwyn's 'Star' Shines at $18,500

BALTIMORE, Jan. 31.—With most films here holding over this week, business is about average. The main newcomer is "The North Star" which, with a stage show, is listed for $18,500 at the Hippodrome.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 3:

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)

CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $16,000).

"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)

KEITH'S—(2,406) (28c-40c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $12,000)

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)

NEW—(1,581) (28c-35c-40c-55c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,700).

"No Time for Love" (Para.)

STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $16,900).

"The North Star" (RKO)

HIPPODROME—(2,205) (28c-39c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Stage show: Jack Marshall, Three Welles, Four Franks, Bob Fuller's Singing Stylists. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $16,800).

"Woman of the Town" (UA)

MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,900)

"Minesweeper" (Para.)

MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,500).

Two Missing in Action

CHICAGO, Jan. 31.—Lt. William Hallenberg and Lt. John Robertson, former Warner Theatre employees here, are reported "missing in action" by the War Department.

Exhibitors Meeting Appraising Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

An exception to this procedure, however, will be the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, the top officials of which are scheduled to meet with Clark in Washington the end of the week.

Conclusions reached by the National Council of Unaffiliated Exhibitors today and tomorrow will be merged with the findings on Wednesday and Thursday of the Allied board of directors. In declining to announce preliminary details, Myers pointed out that this was in compliance with a request made by Clark.

May Reopen Negotiations

General exhibitor reaction following today's seven-hour session indicated that recommendations may be made by a number of the organizations represented for the reopening of decree negotiations by the Department of Justice with the exhibitors in an effort to have incorporated a number of revisions and additions that are certain to be recommended.

The annual election of Allied officers will be held Wednesday, with indications that efforts will be made to induce M. A. Rosenberg of Pittsburgh to serve another term as president. The reelection of Meyer as board chairman and general counsel also is anticipated.

Among Those Present

Among those attending today's sessions were the following Robert H. Poole, executive secretary, Hugh W. Bruen, treasurer and Rotus Harvey, trustee, Pacific Coast Conference of Independent theatre owners; Leo F. Wolcott, president, and directors A. C. Myrick, and Wesley Mansfield, Allied-Independent Theatre Owners of Iowa-Nebraska; Nathan Yamins, executive committeeman, and Arthur K. Howard, business manager, of Boston, Independent Exhibitors, Inc.; Martin G. Smith, president, and P. J. (Pete) Wood, secretary, Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio; Jessie Stern, president, and Julius Charnow, of Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors; William L. Ainsworth, president, Independent Theatres Protective Association of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan; Sidney E. Samuelson, business manager, Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania; M. A. Rosenberg, president, Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania; Donald Guttman, president, North-Central Allied Independent Theatres; Roy E. Harrold, president, Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana.

Zevin Is Released

Isadore Zevin, who has been awaiting sentence here on a guilty plea to an indictment charging that he lied before a Federal grand jury probing racketeering within the film industry, was granted permission at the weekend by Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard to leave here for Chicago.

Associated Dividend

LONDON, Jan. 31.—Associated British Pictures today declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent, tax-free, the same as last year. It proved disappointing to stockholders, but is larger than the dividend anticipated at the year's end.

DuMont Heads New Television Group

Allen B. DuMont, president of Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, was elected president of the newly-formed Television Broadcasters Association at a meeting of the organization committee here at the weekend. Lewis Allen Weiss, Don Lee network, was named vice-president, and Jack Poppele, Station WOR, New York, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Directors elected for three years include: O. B. Hanson, NBC; E. A. Hayes, Hughes Tool Co., and Paul Raibourn, Paramount Pictures. Elected as directors for two years were Worthington Miner, CBS; Robert L. Gibson, General Electric, and Weiss; and for one year, F. J. Bingley, Philco; DuMont, and E. W. Mason of Earle C. Anthony, Inc.

The following committees were organized: membership, to consist of the board of directors, under Poppele's direction; publicity, with Gibson as chairman; engineering committee, Bingley, chairman; program committee, Miner as chairman; post-war planning committee, to study the effect of television on potential employment and its use as a public service medium for entertainment and educational purposes, with Raibourn as chairman.

DuMont announced that the organization expects to form a television manufacturers' committee to integrate television manufacturing problems with broadcasting problems.

On invitation of the Radio Technical Planning Board, the organization voted to join the RTPB as a sponsoring member.

Bette Davis Big On $26,700 Take

BOSTON, Jan. 31.—Local theatres played to good business throughout the week and indications are for completely normal grosses this week. The big Metropolitan had an unusually good week with "Old Acquaintance" grossing $26,700. One interesting sidelight of the week was the $11,700 done by "None Shall Escape" at E. M. Loew's Majestic.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 2:

"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
"Mine Sweeper" (Para.)
METROPOLITAN—(4,367) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $26,700. (Average: $25,800).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $18,600. (Average: $17,300).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $26,700. (Average: $25,400).

"Gangs All Here" (20th-Fox)
"Secret Service" (RKO)
KEITH MEMORIAL—(2,900) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $20,300. (Average: $18,300).

"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
MAJESTIC THEATRE—(1,790) (30c-44c-55c). Gross: $11,700. (Average: $7,800)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"O My Darling Clementine" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT—(1,400) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $11,400. (Average: $9,800).

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"O, My Darling Clementine" (Rep.)
FENWAY—(1,207) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $6,700. (Average: $5,800).

"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
RKO BOSTON—(3,900) (44c-55c-65c-85c). Stage show with orchestra. Gross: $21,400. (Average: $20,400).

Reviews

"In Our Time"

(Warner Bros.)

EFFECTIVELY projecting a tender, appealing romance between a sensitive English girl of humble origin and a young Polish aristocrat, against a background of the decadent life of the Polish aristocracy shortly before the Nazi invasion, Jerry Wald has produced an interesting and dramatic film for Warners. The fine performances by Ida Lupino and Paul Henreid as stars of "In Our Time" emphasizes the romantic aspects of the story, and the presentment of the underlying political and economic causes leading to the quick capitulation of Poland to the Nazis which scripters Ellis St. Joseph and Howard Koch have attempted to convey in their screenplay, has not been sacrificed. This is adult screen entertainment and should find favor with many customers.

The time of the story is the period when Poland sat on a keg of dynamite yet made but feeble attempts to meet the impending Nazi challenge. Miss Lupino goes to Warsaw with her domineering employer, Mary Boland, an English antique dealer, early in 1939. Here she meets and immediately falls in love with Henreid. His decision to marry her meets with determined opposition from his ultra-conservative family, especially from his Nazi-appeasement-seeking uncle, Victor Francen, who holds the family purse strings. Henreid defies his uncle, and to the chagrin of his ineffectual widowed mother, Nazimova, and his spinster sister, Nancy Coleman, he marries Miss Lupino. Inspired by her, he introduces modern agricultural methods on the family's baronial estate to gain financial independence from his uncle. Success is within his grasp when the Nazis suddenly invade the country. Though his family flees to safety, Henreid, with Miss Lupino at his side, remains to rally the peasants to continue their fight for a better Poland.

Top performances under Vincent Sherman's direction not only by Miss Lupino and Henreid, but by Michael Chekhov as Henreid's other uncle, and the part of an ineffectual poet with progressive ideas, by Francen, besides those by Miss Boland, Nazimova and Miss Coleman, compensates for some of the slowness of the action. Franz Waxman's musical score and the generous use of Chopin classics, as well as Carl Guthrie's photography are assets to the production.

Running time, 110 mins. "G."* Release date, Feb. 19.

MILT LIVINGSTON

"Beautiful But Broke"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, Jan. 31

JOAN DAVIS is star of, and runs away with this swiftly-paced and comedy-laden story about a girl's band that sets out from Los Angeles for a night club in Cleveland and winds up furnishing entertainment to warplant workers in the mid-continent belt. "Beautiful but Broke" is a fast 72 minutes, explosive a good deal of that distance with Miss Davis' brand of comedy pyrotechnics.

John Hubbard, Jane Frazee, Judy Clark and Bob Haymes are principals in a large cast directed with spirit by Charles Barton for producer Irving Berlin. Manny Seff's screenplay, based on Arthur Houseman's story, is slick, frothy and effective. Six songs, selected from the hits of the period and including "Shoo Shoo Baby" and "Pistol Packin' Mamma," are played and sung in the course of the proceedings.

Running time, 72 minutes. "G."* Release date, Jan. 25.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Academy Names Six For 'Effects' Award

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Members of the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences have nominated six pictures for this year's "special effects" citation.

Those named were: "Air Force," Warners; "Bombardier," RKO; "Crash Dive," 20th-Fox; "North Star," Goldwyn-RKO; "So Proudly We Hail," Paramount, and "Stand by for Action," M-G-M.

To Screen 'Up in Arms'

RKO Radio will trade show Samuel Goldwyn's "Up in Arms" Friday in New York and Los Angeles. The showing here is scheduled for the Normandie Theatre.

Legion's Masterson Now a Navy Chaplain

Rev. Patrick J. Masterson, assistant executive secretary of the National Legion of Decency here has been commissioned a chaplain in the Navy. Father Masterson, now on leave from his post with the Legion, has been assistant secretary for the past two years and is now attending the Chaplains' School at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.

Paramount Stock Offered

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane, announced yesterday that it expects to make a special offering on the New York Stock Exchange about noon today of 25,000 shares of Paramount Pictures, Inc., common stock.



TWIN B.O. SENSA
RECORDS IN NATIO

"WOMEN IN BONDAGE"

TOLEDO, Palace . . . Broke house record first week. Booked for second week.

WASHINGTON, Metropolitan Outstanding business, rated a sleeper. "Very pleased with gross. Will have excellent week despite severe snow storm Saturday and Sunday which tied up traffic and made driving almost impossible."—John J. Payette.

MILWAUKEE, Palace Played two weeks to outstanding business.

ATLANTA, Rialto . . Sensational first week, held over for second.

TAMPA, State . . . . Being brought back for second week after tremendous first week.

HARTFORD, State . . Played to sensational business.

CHARLESTON, Lyric Broke all existing house records—45% over previous high.

NEW HAVEN, Bijou . Excellent business despite severe weather.

BOOKED INTO — *CENTURY, ROCHESTER; TRANS-LUX, BOSTON; WARFIELD, SAN FRANCISCO; LINCOLN, TROY; PALOMAR, SEATTLE; ORPHEUM, OAKLAND; RITZ, ALBANY; GARRICK, CHICAGO; MAYFAIR, PORTLAND; ETC., ETC.*

MONOGRAM PICTURES

both from the NEW MON

TIONS SMASH ALL
N-WIDE LANDSLIDE!

"WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN?"

CHICAGO, Garrick . . . Now in fourth week. Broke house record first week by $3,000. Second week, $4,000 over average. Third week, excellent. All house records broken.

NEW YORK, Globe . . Held for third week. First week, wham $28,000. Will reach $23,000 in second week. "Excellent business. You have wonderful money-maker on your hands." —Lou Brandt.

PITTSBURGH, Fulton . Started second week. "Broke all time Sunday house record after smash Saturday opening. Record previously held by representative product from major company. 'A' timely picture worth 'A' time in any theatre."—John D. Walsh.

BOSTON, Trans-Lux.. Stopped selling tickets after the first hour.

MEMPHIS, Warners .. Biggest gross ever clicked by any outside picture.

DENVER, Paramount . Big $13,500. Will be brought back to the Rialto. House record broken.

MILWAUKEE, Riverside Sensational business 50% over average.

TAMPA, State . . . . . Held over for second week.

ROCHESTER, Century. 50% over average business. Greatest opening in its history.

BUFFALO, Lafayette . Opened to biggest first hour in history of theatre.

BOOKED INTO — *STANTON, PHILADELPHIA; MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS; EGYPTIAN, RITZ, LOS ANGELES (FOX WEST COAST); METROPOLITAN, WASHINGTON; RIALTO, ATLANTA; EMPIRE, BIRMINGHAM; WARFIELD, SAN FRANCISCO; MAYFAIR, PORTLAND; PALOMAR, SEATTLE; ETC.*

GRAM the Showman's company!

PRC Plans to Distribute on National Scale

(Continued from page 1)

group; with Robert Young as key man, and Kenneth as board chairman, while John will continue as president of Pathe Laboratories, Inc.

With Robert as the undoubted president of PRC, Inc., it is anticipated that studio head Leon Fromkess will become president of the various PRC-controlled film companies. These are: PRC Pictures, which includes distribution, PRC and PRC studios. Fromkess will go East Thursday, where these moves will be formalized.

Briggs' Contract Settled

As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 27, O. Henry Briggs' contract as PRC Pictures' president, which ran through 1944, has been settled.

A plan first reported months ago about the possibility of PRC entering the theatre field also appears taking more tangible form. Purchases would funnel through PRC, Inc., the impending top company and would be geared to investment purposes and not primarily to provide film company with theatre outlets.

Columbia Pictures, which sought to outbid in recent sale for the Fine Arts studio and lost to PRC, is reputedly still angling hard for that studio. It is most unlikely that PRC will resell because studio space generally is at a premium here.

252 of 350 Cases Involved Clearance

(Continued from page 1)

disclosed. There are now 29 cases pending before the tribunals.

Of 88 awards appealed by either exhibitor, distributor or an intervenor before the appeal board in New York, 22 decisions were affirmed, 41 modified and 22 were reversed.

Fifty-three cases were filed in the New York tribunal, the largest number in any city. No cases have been filed at the Seattle tribunal. Many boards have handled fewer than a dozen complaints in the three-year period. Among them are:

Albany, Atlanta, Charlotte, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Memphis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Haven, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco and Salt Lake City.

Ban Eased on Film Equipment Metals

(Continued from page 1)

lem was less one of materials than of manpower and that the extent of civilian production is dependent upon the demands of the military services. If the manpower now available is sufficient to permit increased production, it may be that some additional equipment for theatres will be turned out, but even so it is probable that a number of months will be required to manufacture even a small additional supply, because of the difficulties of getting motors and other elements.

$4,000,000, All-Time High, Predicted as 'Dimes' Total

(Continued from page 1)

lected last year, an increase of 70 per cent, largest in the circuit's history.

Loew's Theatres to date, with figures incomplete, has $425,000 on the books. Seymour Morris reports that Schine Theatres in the first three days of the drive surpassed last year's collections. Some situations showed an increase of from 200 to 300 per cent. Reports from Harry Arthur, I. J. Hoffman and W. F. Crockett, state chairmen for Missouri, Connecticut and Virginia, respectively, indicate that the totals for those states will be far ahead of 1943. E. C. Smith, manager of the Carolina Theatre, Chapel Hills, N. C., writes that his house and the Pick Theatre, together, raised $1,015, against last year's total of $225.

British Stars Present $240,000 Polio Check

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—President Roosevelt's birthday party at the White House over the weekend was highlighted by the presentation of a polio-drive check for $240,000, representing most of the net profits in this country from the film "Forever and a Day," made by actors of British origin in appreciation of the hospitality shown them here and of American contributions to British charities. The check was handed over by Lady Hardwicke for her husband, Sir Cedric Hardwicke. She was accompanied by Roland Young, Brian Aherne and N. Peter Rathvon, president of RKO, who financed and produced the film, which used 100 British writers, directors and stars.

Guests from Hollywood

Other Hollywood people who lunched with the President were Louis Prima, Guy Lombardo, Red Skelton, John Garfield, Meyer Davis, Walter Pidgeon, Brian Donlevy, Dean Murphy, Joan Fontaine, Martha Scott, Mary Martin, Virginia Field, Mary Pickford, Lucille Ball, Maria Montez, Jinx Falkenburg, Jeanne Cagney, Lily Pons and Patricia Collinge.

British to Probe Picture 'Monopoly'

(Continued from page 1)

honorary director of the Iberto-American Institute of Great Britain, and Professor Albert Arnold Plant of the London University School of Economics.

The group was named by Dr. Hugh Dalton, president of the Board of Trade, on whom it is understood pressure was brought to bear by the House of Commons, by labor groups within the industry and by industry interests opposed to Rank, leading British producer, distributor and circuit operator. Dalton is said to have urged the committee to offer recommendations with all possible speed. Deliberations will be private.

Recent reports here of Rank's intention to develop outlets in the United States, with possible purchase of an interest in an American company, led last week to the assigning of Robert L. Wright, assistant to the U. S. Attorney General in charge of the film unit, to study any negotiations between Rank and American companies, with a view to ascertaining whether an international film cartel might be developing.

New Skouras Salvage Plan

To accelerate the collection of waste paper needed in war manufacturing, Skouras Theatre's special war-effort department, headed by Nick John Matsoukas, has evolved a plan of providing youngsters in Greater New York with free admission to Skouras theatres for each 50 pounds of waste paper deposited at official salvage depots manned by the American Women's Voluntary Service.

Longakre to 'Movieland'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Marian L. Longakre has joined the staff of *Movieland Magazine* here. She will assist editor Ruth Waterbury.

2,700 Theatres Have Set Bond Premieres

(Continued from page 1)

the industry's efforts at the half-way mark, Charles P. Skouras, the industry's national chairman, yesterday stressed that "the doubled-up intensity of every phase of endeavor speaks enthusiastically for the total success of the drive."

Further evidence of the all-out character of the present drive is the record number of entries being received by Robert Selig in the "Honored Hundred" contest. Despite the fact that entry certificates are not essential to participation in the contest, some 5,000 exhibitors have already filed in the competition.

Another accomplishment reported is the flow of new theatres registering as official issuing agencies. In most cases, according to Treasury officials, these will be theatres that never before participated in bond sales, while in some it will represent houses converted from "application centers" to actual sales agencies.

War Dep't Confirms Mayer Appointment

(Continued from page 1)

established in the industrial services division of the Army's Bureau of Public Relations, the purpose of which is to increase the distribution of War Department films for showing the course of the war to industrial workers. Most of the pictures were made by the Signal Corps and Army Air Force photographers in war theatres of operation.

For the purpose of centralizing the distribution and coordinating the work with the Signal Corps photographic center in Long Island City, where most of the films of the branch are handled, the new branch will have an office at 1501 Broadway, New York.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service of the day in the industry's 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC war and campaign committee of the industry yesterday named the following motion picture theatre owners or managers:

GEORGE N. PAYETTE, Maryland Theatre, Hagerstown, Md.
ARTHUR J. KEENAN, Merrimack Theatre, Lowell, Mass.
T. M. CROXTON, Ritz Theatre, Waycross, Ga.
FRED REED, Fox Theatre, Longmont, Col.
EDWARD M. HASKINS, State Theatre, Calais, Me.
J. BOKSER, Ogden Theatre, Bronx, N. Y.
ARTHUR CROZIER, McNary Theatre, McNary, Ariz.
LEO H. HENDERSON, Grand Theatre, Salem, Ore.
A. J. KALBERER, Indiana Theatre, Washington, Ind.
VICTOR A. MAURIN, Fox Theatre, Houma, La.

Jap Atrocity Films' Cycle Is in Making

(Continued from page 1)

that studios will confine these picturizations to the type of atrocities officially reported because "our purposes abroad will not be served by mere horror material that is beyond the bounds of credibility." He also pointed out the Government must continue to judge each film on its merits for overseas use.

Republic Starts "Death March"

First studio to cross the lines with a new Jap-atrocity film announcement, following RKO's scheduling Friday of "This Is My Brother," was Republic, which made a weekend announcement of "Death March," based on "authentic revelations of Jap atrocities in the Philippines," for production by Armand Schaefer.

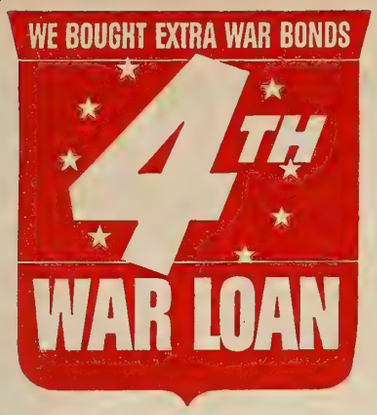
Word from the King Brothers, who release through Monogram, indicated their recently acquired "I Was a Prisoner of Japan," by John Darrow, will be filmed as quickly as preparations can be completed. Bryan Foy, 20th-Fox producer, resumed preparation of "Horror Island," shelved when the ban on atrocity films was imposed by the War Department, and on "I Escaped from Hong Kong," the Jan Herrik Marsman book, which experienced a similar postponement.

Finds for Majors In E. M. Loew Case

(Continued from page 1)

there is insufficient evidence upon which to base action for damages and absolves the defendants, who include Paramount, RKO, Warners, M-G-M, United Artists, Universal, Columbia and 20th Century-Fox. The distributors and the theatres in Arlington, Malden and Medford are all absolved in his report.

The defendants were represented by the Boston law firm of Nutter, McLennan and Frisch, with Judge Jacob Kaplan and attorney Edward F. McLellan handling the case.



"HONORED HUNDRED" BULLETIN!

ALL THEATRE MANAGERS in America, Alaska or Hawaii who are competing in the "HONORED HUNDRED" contest of the Motion Picture Industry's Fourth War Loan are requested to note the following:

1. IT IS NOT absolutely necessary to send in an OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK to be enrolled in the "HONORED HUNDRED" contest. THE REASON FOR the entry blank is to accurately measure the interest throughout the country as well as to be able to stay in contact with all entrants.

2. ENTRY BLANK OR NO ENTRY BLANK, you are automatically in! The only *qualifying* factor is the sale of *at least* ONE "E" BOND FOR EVERY SEAT IN YOUR THEATRE. THE "HONORED HUNDRED" will be selected on the basis of the percentage ratio of "E" bonds sold to the number of seats.

3. ALL BONDS SOLD FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 29 will count in the "HONORED HUNDRED" contest. (Treasury Department forms INCORRECTLY carry dates "From midnight January 17 through February 15).

4. TO RECEIVE FULL credit for bonds sold by your theatre *OUTSIDE* the stated contest dates (midnight January 17 through February 15, as indicated on the Treasury form) YOU WILL SUBMIT TO YOUR STATE EXHIBITOR CHAIRMAN a statement, listing the total of these bond-sales. This statement will attest those bond-sales which were made from January 1 through February 29, *excluding those reported on the special Treasury forms.* Thus, your Treasury Form stubs and *your special statement,* will give you credit *for all bonds sold from January 1 through February 29.*

5. IF YOU RUN out of the special Treasury bond-application forms, your nearest National Screen Service exchange will supply you.

6. THE SPECIAL STUB *on the Treasury forms,* indicating each sale, is to be held by you until the conclusion of the campaign. These stubs, together with a "FINAL REPORT FORM"—*which will be sent you*—go to your STATE EXHIBITOR CHAIRMAN.

7. THE EXPIRATION DATE of the "HONORED HUNDRED" contest is midnight, February 29, 1944. Your stubs, your special statement, (see No. 2) together with your FINAL REPORT FORM must be mailed to your STATE EXHIBITOR CHAIRMAN *bearing a post mark not later than March 15, 1944.*

8. EACH STATE CHAIRMAN, assisted by the State War Finance Committee Chairman and such outside accounting help as may be necessary, will select from his state's final report forms the STATE WINNER as well as the *winner* in each *classification of population* (see press book or special brochure for complete contest rules.) This group of state winners will constitute NOMINEES from that state to the "HONORED HUNDRED." The bond-sales of these NOMINEES from EACH STATE, Alaska and Hawaii will then be sent to the National Committee in New York where the Contest Judges, assisted by an outside accounting firm, will determine the winners.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE "HONORED HUNDRED" will be made from New York as soon as possible after the close of the contest, but not later than *April 20, 1944.*

10. IF, AT ANY TIME, during the Fourth War Loan you wish any information on the "HONORED HUNDRED" contest, telegraph, telephone or write to ROBERT W. SELIG, Assistant Campaign Director, Motion Picture Industry Fourth War Loan, Suite 407, Paramount Building, 1501 Broadway, New York 18, New York.

War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, New York City

NINE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS IN A SNOWBOUND LODGE WHERE LOVE WALKED HAND IN HAND WITH *MURDER!*



9 GIRLS

Every suspect... A BEAUTY!

Every alibi... A "BEAUT"!

Every clue... A CUE FOR MORE *MURDER!*





with

ANN HARDING · EVELYN KEYES

JINX FALKENBURG · ANITA LOUISE

LESLIE BROOKS · LYNN MERRICK

JEFF DONNELL · NINA FOCH

SHIRLEY MILLS · MARCIA MAE JONES

Screen Play by Karen DeWolf and Connie Lee

Directed by LEIGH JASON · Produced by BURT KELLY

COLUMBIA PICTURES

A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT!
FOURTH WAR LOAN

DO NOT REMOVE

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 23 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1944 TEN CENTS

Clark Reveals Majors' Proposals for Decree

Draft Offers to Place Affiliated Theatres Under Arbitration Rules, Cancels Film Franchises, Limits Circuits

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Distributors' proposals for a new consent decree, covering arbitration, cancellations, circuit expansion, pooling of theatres, product franchises, withholding of prints, forcing of shorts and newsreels, trade showings and other trade practices, were summarized here today by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark.

It was indicated that the distributors' proposals "run roughly" about half-way between the "old" decree which ended a three-year trial period last Nov. 20, and what theatre owners would like—which is what the Department of Justice expects.

Disclosing the gist of the proposals, Clark refused to comment either upon their effect on exhibitors or upon what degree of receptivity they met in the Department. He explained that there has been no acceptance of the companies' offer, however, and said the Department's views should be withheld until the exhibitors' ideas have been secured.

As previously disclosed in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, the proposals call for a 20, 10 and five per cent cancellation and for prior approval by the Federal Court of theatre acquisitions. While failing to provide for regional arbitration appeal boards, the proposals

(Continued on page 18)

Independents' Decree Brief Due on Feb. 9

Opposition to Draft of Distributors Seen

CHICAGO, Feb. 1.—A brief representing a strong united front of independent exhibitors against the new decree provisions of the distributors will be completed Wednesday, Feb. 9, it was announced tonight by Abram F. Myers, chairman and general counsel of the Allied States Association, at the close of a two-day session of the National Council of Unaffiliated Exhibitors in the Blackstone Hotel here.



Abram F. Myers

Elected, along with Myers, as a

(Continued on page 18)

Canadians Meet To Outline Trade 'Unity' Program

By W. M. GLADISH

TORONTO, Feb. 1.—The pipe of film industry peace was smoked at the luncheon today in the King Edward Hotel, at which officers of the Ontario council, Independent Exhibitors of Canada, were hosts to general managers of Canadian film distributing companies and at which a new amity policy of the organization was outlined as the basis for a co-operative move for the entire Canadian trade. Guests also included Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the Canadian M. P. Distributors Association, and Henry Falk, chairman of the national council, Independent Exhibitors of Canada.

In line with this gesture, first in Canada, where unaffiliated theatre owners collectively tendered invitations to film exchange heads to a gathering to deal with trade harmony, is the "united front" program of the M. P. Theatres Association of Ontario, of which the president is M. A. Milligan, former general manager of Paramount Film Service and now owner of several theatres.

Officially, the policy of the MPTA

(Continued on page 19)

Appeal Board Terms Extended for Year

George W. Alger, Albert W. Putnam and Robert McC. Marsh, motion picture arbitration appeal board judges, had their terms extended for one year, until Jan. 31, 1945, in an order signed here yesterday by Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard. The order was prepared and submitted by the Department of Justice.

Under provisions of the industry's consent decree, terms of the appeal board members were set for three years, ending Jan. 31, 1944. Alger and Putnam served full three-year terms while Marsh succeeded the late Van Vechten Veeder. Marsh's interim appointment was extended by the court last November to Jan. 31.

Skouras Buys Bonds From 230 Theatres

A bond from every theatre in the 230-house Fox West Coast Circuit, principal subsidiary of National Theatres, has been bought by Charles P. Skouras, president of both companies and national chairman of the indus-

(Continued on page 18)

U. A. Administrative Changes By-Passed

No changes in operating titles nor administrative authority of top United Artists executives will be made at this time, a ranking official of the company stated yesterday.

Current day-to-day meetings of members of the company's board of directors, which in addition to Eastern members, are being attended by Mary Pickford and George Bagnall, are now concerned with routine business matters, it was stated. The meetings are expected to be concluded next week.

Distributors' Principal Proposals for New Decree

Washington, Feb. 1.—Following are the major proposals made by the five decree distributors for a new consent decree, as summarized here today by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark:

Arbitration: **To be conducted as at present, with a single board of appeals to be located in New York. Arbitration of clearance to be extended to the defendants' own theatres. Arbitration of run to be extended to exhibitors in competition with the defendants' circuits.**

Cancellations: **Theatres paying $100 or less per picture to be given 20 percent; $101 to $200, 10 per cent; over $200, five percent. In the case of 20 percent exhibitors, estimated at 80 percent of all houses, one of the first three pictures could be cancelled, thereafter one of five. Cancellation percentages are minimum.**

Circuit Expansion: **Defendants to secure Federal Court approval prior to consummating any acquisition except for purpose of replacement, to secure a "show case" or where a lock-out has prevented the showing of pictures for one year or longer. This provision is still subject**

(Continued on page 19)

'Bernadette' Tieups Out, But Definitely

Twentieth Century-Fox has invoked the unusual policy of forbidding any theatre or organization from sponsoring or tying-in with the opening or any part of the run of "The Song of Bernadette." "This policy must not be violated, or amended or compromised in any shape or form," says the order to the company's field forces, adding: "Neither will any theatre be permitted to become a party to a tieup having for its purpose the purchase of blocks of tickets by any group or organization during the advanced price engagements."

Personal Mention

SPYROS SKOURAS, president of 20th Century-Fox, left for Hollywood yesterday for production conferences with the company's studio heads. He will be gone about a week.

•

BILL JONES, RKO Vancouver manager, and REGINALD DODDRIDGE, Calgary RKO manager, are in Seattle attending a sales meeting called by CHARLES BOASBERG for the Ned Depinet Drive.

•

PAUL NATHANSON, president of Odeon Theatres of Canada, has left for the Pacific Coast from Toronto to inspect the circuit's 30 theatres in British Columbia.

•

RALPH MITCHELTREE, former manager of the Capitol, Calgary, B. C., now in the RCAF, is stationed at a coastal patrol station in Northern British Columbia.

•

GORDON LIGHTSTONE, Paramount Canadian general manager, and WIN BARRON, in charge of sales promotion, are expected in New York from Toronto on Thursday.

•

SAM WHEELER, Washington, D. C., Film Classics franchise holder, will return to his headquarters tonight after a brief visit in New York.

•

PAUL KLEINMAN, house manager for the Wax circuit in Philadelphia, was inducted into the Army last week.

•

SYLVIA KATLIN, daughter of DAN KATLIN, manager of the Lansdale, Philadelphia, and SGT. JACK EISENSTEIN, were married last week.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists Western division manager, left yesterday for a tour of Midwestern exchanges.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M Eastern and Southern sales manager, will return to New York from St. Petersburg, Fla., on Saturday.

•

HAROLD ZELTNER, formerly assistant manager at Loew's Kings, Brooklyn, is now a student at the M-G-M Buffalo exchange.

•

JOE FARROW, M-G-M Philadelphia office manager, has returned to his desk after an illness.

•

NORMAN ELSON, Trans-Lux vice-president, is expected today from Washington.

•

HENDERSON M. RICHEY of M-G-M will leave Friday for a vacation at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M advertising and publicity director, is expected back from the Coast Feb. 15.

•

BEN STOLOFF, 20th-Fox director, is here from the Coast.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Feb. 1

NOT quite the full distance was traversed last Wednesday in the analysis of "The Song of Bernadette" which appeared here. There is something additional to be remarked about the box-office course which this superlative attraction may be expected to travel.

It is not the calibre of effort which necessarily will display staggering returns immediately, for this is a film quiet in mood and even in its tempo. It is not apt to be "sensational" within the meaning of the term as the trade generally accepts it. More likely will it be that grosses will build steadily and sustain themselves over the period of the run.

■

Moreover, it is entirely possible receipts will scale high peaks and approach some valleys. But it is also very possible the averaging-off process will establish this attraction in highly formidable brackets over extended periods of time.

"The Song of Bernadette," in a word, is not merely a release in the 1943-44 season. It reaches clearly beyond and into indefinable seasons to come.

■

Our belief also is that the exhibitor will do his public and his theatre well in playing this attraction. The producers of the industry cannot be expected to venture into unknown and shadowy areas at heavy investment in an effort to give audiences something different unless the exhibitor rallies to the support.

There is to consider as well the responsibilities which reside in good conduct and good performance and the methods by which the industry constantly must seek to achieve them. "The Song of Bernadette" is an unusual contribution in both of these directions. On dramatic merit, it is entitled to all consideration. As a notable offering in the furtherance of good conduct and good performance, it will do inestimably well for an industry frequently under attack.

■

The final conviction on our part is this:

If we ran a theatre, we would book and play "The Song of Bernadette." We would do this because of that which is in the film. Were there less, we would book and play it anyway.

It rates, no matter what the approach.

Hollywood reliables construct this version of negotiations which culminated in the distribution deal between International Pictures and RKO:

Grad Sears enjoyed an inside track for United Artists with Leo Spitz, chairman of International's board and partner of Bill Goetz. In the pre-finals, it became a toss-up between UA and RKO. Factor of weight on Sears' side was his close friendship with Spitz; an equation, moreover, which is mutual. Further than that, Spitz was Grad's attorney and closed the latter's deal with UA. Accepted factor of weight, of course, was Sears' position in distribution and his experience and standing as a sales executive.

■

In the final analysis, however, it was theatre strength which determined the outcome. Not alone RKO's weight through its own chain, which assures playing time, but the important influence which RKO, as distributor and exhibitor alike, wields in the normal course, as do other national circuits.

The pattern, of course, is ABC stuff: RKO theatres depend on product other than RKO; they couldn't get by otherwise. As the other four chains in the national arena, Paramount, Warner, Loew's and National (20th-Fox) are in the identical position as RKO Theatres in this respect.

The long-standing result in today's overall, industry picture is the prevailing hand-washing process under which one recognizes the other's situation, and requirements. That's how very important playing time is born.

Spitz wanted International to be in on that.

■ ■

Accuracy in Los Angeles-Hollywood reporting:

Jimmy Starr, *Herald-Express* writer and critic who comments on previews despite promises not to, reports this: "Sam Wood's beaming because 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' played 27 weeks in New York to more than a million persons, grossing more than $2,000,000."

That averages out the Rivoli engagement at $74,074 and makes it the neatest trick of the week. For 27 weeks.

■ ■

Leonard Goldstein, local wit, says "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" will be directed by Gregory O'Ratoff.

Lucy Flack is Now a WAC

Milford, Conn., Feb. 1.—Lucy Flack, former owner of the Capitol Theatre here, has enlisted in the WAC.

Jeffrey Succeeds Coplan in Canada

TORONTO, Feb. 1.—Reorganization of Canadian-United Artists personnel, following the departure of David H. Coplan to become U. A. British general manager in London brings the promotion of A. J. Jeffrey, Toronto branch manager, to the post of Canadian sales manager; Al Siscov, salesman, to manager of the Toronto branch, and the appointment of Paul Maynard, formerly with PRC of Canada, as salesman. Ben Cronk remains as public relations manager for Canada, and Harry Kohen continues as office manager of headquarters here.

The Toronto staff presented Coplan with a gold watch as a farewell token, while general managers of all Toronto film companies gave him a dinner at which he was presented with a gold cigarette case.

Soskin Here on Film For New Rank Unit

Paul Soskin, English producer who has organized the new Independent Producers, Ltd., London, arrived here yesterday. Associated with him is Gabriel Pascal, who will film a number of George Bernard Shaw plays. J. Arthur Rank, film magnate, is chairman of the new company.

Soskin's first under the new set-up will be "Signed with Their Honour," by James Aldridge. He will leave New York for Hollywood in a week to film backgrounds.

Baird's Appointment Confirmed by BIS

British Information Services officially disclosed here yesterday that Thomas Baird, assistant director of its U. S. film division, will succeed George Archibald as director here, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Dec. 20, 1943. Archibald will leave here for London next Monday, as reported in yesterday's DAILY.

Archibald will meet the trade press and film critics of the metropolitan press at a reception at the New Weston Hotel here tomorrow at 5:30.

Congress to Approve New Tax Bill Today

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Congress is expected to approve tomorrow the new $2,315,800,000 tax bill, which was completed by legislative drafting experts today. Still remaining in the bill is the one cent tax on each five cents of admission to film theatres, ball games and other amusements.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.



SITTING PRETTY!



"You too can
have that
schoolboy
complexion.
Come this way!"



BEFORE!
Sluggish!
No ideas!
No Pep!
FUTURE UNCERTAIN!

AFTER!
Peppy!
Enthusiastic!
Full of ideas!
FUTURE SECURE FOR MONTHS AHEAD!

SO TAKE THE ADVICE OF M-G-M's FRIENDLY DR. LEO



OPEN UP THE CAPSULE–



TAKE OUT THE PRESCRIPTION–



UNROLL IT AND READ:

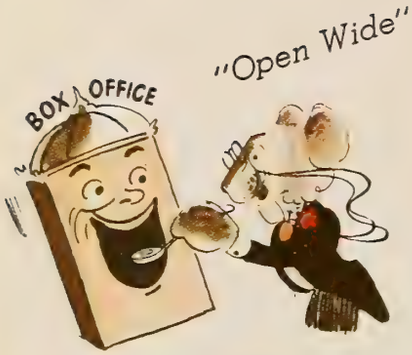
M-G-M's "VITAMIN 12" PUTS PEP IN YOUR PROGRAM AND PROFITS IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

Prescribed by Dr. Leo, The Friendly Box-Office Specialist

THEN READ THE OTHER SIDE:

M-G-M's Sixth Group "VITAMIN 12": "Madame Curie" . "Thousands Cheer" in Technicolor . "A Guy Named Joe" . "Lost Angel" . "Song of Russia" . "Swing Fever" . "Rationing" . "See Here, Private Hargrove" "The Heavenly Body" . "The Cross of Lorraine" . "Cry 'Havoc'" "Broadway Rhythm" in Technicolor

FEELING BETTER ALREADY? KEEP GOING!



M-G-M's VITAMIN 12 for that Good Feeling!

It's fun to look ahead and see the wealth of entertainment that assures your patrons of good times in your show-shop for months to come! Their popularity has been proven! "Thousands Cheer" the Stariffic Army love story is a joy in all its engagements following 10 merry weeks at the Astor, N.Y. "Cry 'Havoc'" another Astor Big One direct from 7 solid weeks there. And "A Guy Named Joe" just what the folks like in the way of Star-romancing. It broke Capitol, N.Y. records in its 6-week *(at press time)* World Premiere engagement. Sure, that VITAMIN 12 makes you feel great!



"THOUSANDS CHEER"

(Technicolor)

Kathryn GRAYSON • Gene KELLY

Mary ASTOR • John BOLES • Jose ITURBI

Ben Blue, Frances Rafferty, Mary Elliott, Frank Jenks, Frank Sully, Dick Simmons, Ben Lessy, Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Red Skelton, Eleanor Powell, Ann Sothern, Lucille Ball, Virginia O'Brien, Frank Morgan, Lena Horne, Marsha Hunt, Marilyn Maxwell, Donna Reed, Margaret O'Brien, June Allyson, Gloria DeHaven, John Conte, Sara Haden, Don Loper, Maxine Barrat, Kay Kyser, Bob Crosby, Benny Carter, The M-G-M Dancing Girls • Original Screen Play by Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins • Based on their story "Private Miss Jones" • Directed by George Sidney • Produced by Joseph Pasternak • An M-G-M Picture

SPENCER TRACY
IRENE DUNNE

in

VICTOR FLEMING'S PRODUCTION OF

"A GUY NAMED JOE"

with Van Johnson • Ward Bond • James Gleason • Lionel Barrymore • Barry Nelson • Esther Williams • Screen Play by Dalton Trumbo • Adaptation by Frederick Hazlitt Brennan • Directed by Victor Fleming • Produced by Everett Riskin • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture





MARGARET SULLAVAN
ANN SOTHERN
JOAN BLONDELL

"CRY 'HAVOC'"

with Fay Bainter • Marsha Hunt • Ella Raines • Frances Gifford • Diana Lewis Heather Angel • Dorothy Morris • Screen Play by Paul Osborn • Based Upon the Play by Allan R. Kenward • Directed by Richard Thorpe • Produced by Edwin Knopf • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture



GREER GARSON
WALTER PIDGEON
in
"MADAME CURIE"

Directed by MERVYN LeROY · *Produced by* SIDNEY FRANKLIN

with Henry Travers • Albert Basserman Robert Walker • C. Aubrey Smith • Dame May Whitty • Victor Francen • Elsa Basserman • Reginald Owen • Van Johnson • Margaret O'Brien • Screen Play by Paul Osborn and Paul H. Rameau Based on the Book "Madame Curie" by Eve Curie • An M-G-M Picture

"THE CROSS OF LORRAINE"

Jean Pierre AUMONT • Gene KELLY • Sir Cedric HARDWICKE

Richard Whorf • Joseph Calleia • Peter Lorre • Hume Cronyn • Screen Play by Michael Kanin and Ring Lardner, Jr., Alexander Esway, Robert D. Andrews Directed by Tay Garnett • Produced by Edwin Knopf • An M-G-M Picture

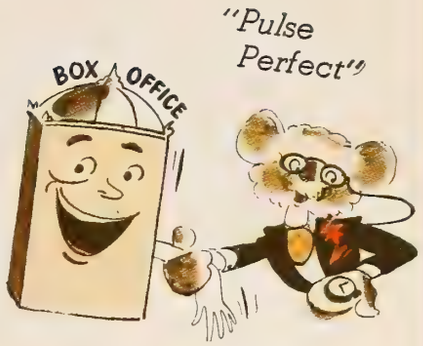




(Technicolor)
"BROADWAY RHYTHM"

Starring
GEORGE MURPHY
GINNY SIMMS
TOMMY DORSEY
And His Orchestra

with Charles Winninger • Gloria DeHaven • Nancy Walker • Ben Blue Lena Horne • Eddie "Rochester" Anderson • Hazel Scott • Kenny Bowers The Ross Sisters • Dean Murphy • Screen Play by Dorothy Kingsley and Harry Clork • Story by Jack McGowan • Based on the Musical "Very Warm For May" by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein, 2nd • Directed by Roy Del Ruth Produced by Jack Cummings • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

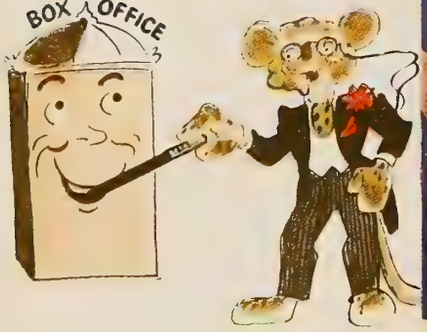


M-G-M's VITAMIN 12 for a Happy Outlook!

Did you ever find so much pep and pleasure in one package as you get in M-G-M's VITAMIN 12? Of course, "Madame Curie" is one of them and its fame has spread from the long Music Hall Premiere to everybody in your town. Get yourself a tonic with Technicolorful "Broadway Rhythm"—for music and fun and love; and then for action and pulse-pounding suspense there's "The Cross of Lorraine" box-office proven in a 10-theatre New York premiere. VITAMIN 12, oh boy, it's good for you!

MORE GOOD MEDICINE AHEAD →

"Way Above Normal!"



M-G-M's VITAMIN 12 for a Cheerful Disposition!

What a joyful prospect for the fans! One of the year's most delightful comedies "The Heavenly Body" will take their minds off everything but slick Bill Powell and sleek Hedy Lamarr. And when they see little Margaret O'Brien in "Lost Angel" they'll see the screen's New Star in a grand show. There's fun ahead too in "Swing Fever" a gay musical with a plot! Keep merry! Keep VITAMIN 12 on hand for health and happiness!



"LOST ANGEL"

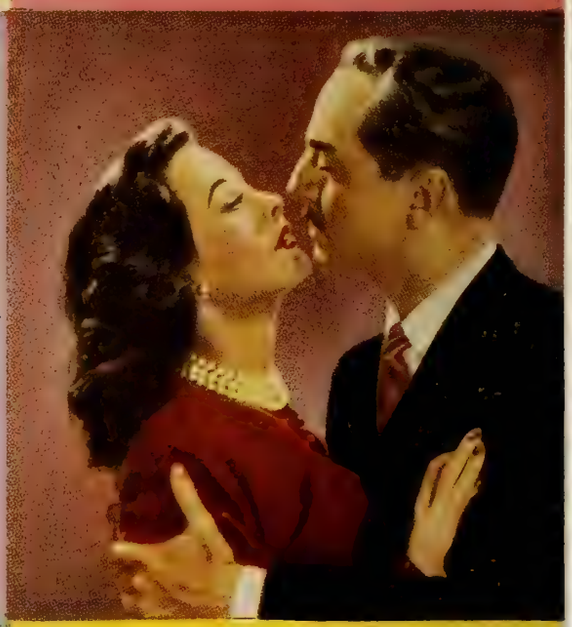
Starring

MARGARET O'BRIEN

with James Craig • Marsha Hunt Philip Merivale • Henry O'Neill Donald Meek • Original Screen Play by Isobel Lennart • Based on an idea by Angna Enters • Directed by Roy Rowland • Produced by Robert Sisk
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

WILLIAM POWELL
HEDY LAMARR
"THE HEAVENLY BODY"

with James Craig • Fay Bainter Henry O'Neill • Spring Byington Screen Play by Michael Arlen and Walter Reisch • Adaptation by Harry Kurnitz • Directed by Alexander Hall Produced by Arthur Hornblow, Jr.
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture





KAY KYSER
"SWING FEVER"

with Marilyn Maxwell • William Gargan Nat Pendleton • Lena Horne and Kay Kyser and his Orchestra featuring Harry Babbitt • Sully Mason • Ish Kabbible Julie Conway and Trudy Irwin • Screen Play by Nat Perrin and Warren Wilson Directed by Tim Whelan • Produced by Irving Starr • An M-G-M Picture



ROBERT TAYLOR
SUSAN PETERS
"SONG OF RUSSIA"

with John Hodiak • Robert Benchley Felix Bressart • Screen Play by Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins • Directed by Gregory Ratoff • Produced by Joseph Pasternak • An M-G-M Picture

WALLACE BEERY
"RATIONING"

with Marjorie Main • Donald Meek Dorothy Morris • Original Screen Play by William R. Lipman, Grant Garrett and Harry Ruskin • Directed by Willis Goldbeck • Produced by Orville O. Dull • An M-G-M Picture





"SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE"

with

ROBERT WALKER
As "Private Hargrove"

and Donna Reed • Keenan Wynn Robert Benchley • Ray Collins Chill Wills • Screen Play by Harry Kurnitz • Based Upon the Book by Marion Hargrove • Directed by Wesley Ruggles • Produced by George Haight • An M-G-M Picture



"Heart Beats True!"

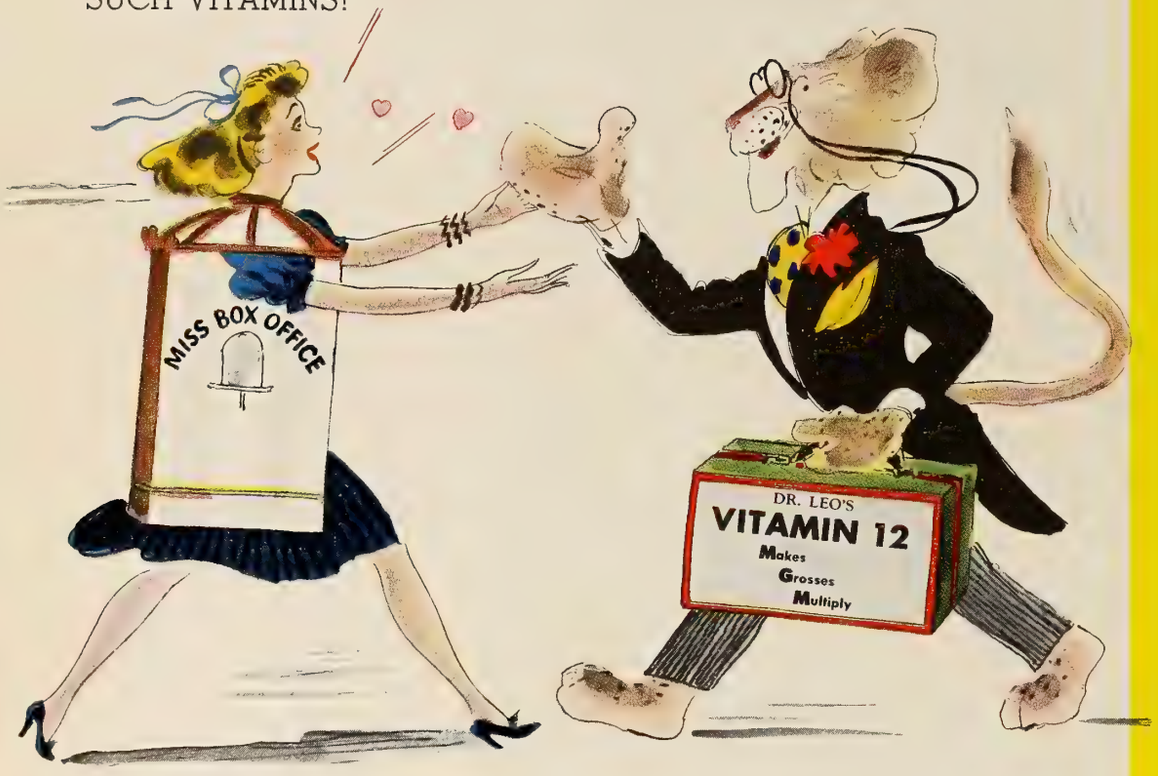
M-G-M's VITAMIN 12 for Steady Nerves!

The exhibitor with the carefree look is the chap who's got VITAMIN 12 on tap. What variety: the grand love story of a Yank in Moscow, "Song of Russia"—it's Bob Taylor's best job and it clinches Susan Peters for stardom! Then there's comedy galore in the timely Wally Beery attraction "Rationing" and in the Best-Seller Hit "See Here, Private Hargrove" with appealing Robert Walker on the way UP! Sure, we've had socko groups before, but the greatest of all is that vital, vivid VITAMIN 12 gross-builder!

TAKE IT EASY! TURN →

"Be mine Leo dear you've got muscles, endurance, Stars in your eyes—and SUCH VITAMINS!"

"Okay babe, let's marry and settle down for a long run!"



SURE, IT'S LEAP YEAR!

And the best proposition you'll get in all of 1944 is M-G-M's "VITAMIN 12"

"Keep up the attack! 4th WAR LOAN!"



DON'T LOOK NOW —but here's what's IN PRODUCTION:

"AMERICA"
(Technicolor)
Brian Donlevy

•

"THE WHITE CLIFFS"
Irene Dunne, Alan Marshal

•

"MEET THE PEOPLE"
Lucille Ball, Dick Powell

•

"ANDY HARDY'S BLONDE TROUBLE"
Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney
Herbert Marshall, Bonita Granville

•

(Technicolor)
"MR. CO-ED"
(Tentative title)
Red Skelton, Esther Williams

•

"GASLIGHT"
Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman
Joseph Cotten

•

"TWO SISTERS AND A SAILOR"
Jimmy Durante, June Allyson, Gloria DeHaven
Van Johnson, Jose Iturbi
Gracie Allen, Lena Horne
Harry James and his music makers
Xavier Cugat and his orchestra

•

"THE CANTERVILLE GHOST"
Charles Laughton, Margaret O'Brien
Robert Young

•

"KISMET"
(Technicolor)
Ronald Colman
Marlene Dietrich

•

"DRAGON SEED"
Katharine Hepburn
Walter Huston, Aline MacMahon
Akim Tamiroff, Turhan Bey

•

"THE SEVENTH CROSS"
Spencer Tracy
Signe Hasso

•

"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS"
Judy Garland
Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor

•

"NATIONAL VELVET"
Mickey Rooney
Elizabeth Taylor, Jack Jenkins

•

"THIRTY SECONDS OVER TOKYO"
Van Johnson, Robert Walker

•

"MARRIAGE IS A PRIVATE AFFAIR"
Lana Turner
James Craig, Frances Gifford, John Hodiak

•

"MRS. PARKINGTON"
Greer Garson

Criticism Not to Change 'Lifeboat'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1. — Twentieth-Fox intends making no alterations in "Lifeboat," according to Joseph M. Schenck, despite criticism by Dorothy Thompson in her syndicated column in which she stated, "It is a film which, translated into German, could be presented in Berlin as a morale builder for the Nazi's war, with only minor changes."

Miss Thompson's column appeared locally in the Los Angeles *Daily News*. She based her comment on Bosley Crowther's review and comment in the *New York Times*. She says she has read John Steinbeck's original and thinks it is time for him to tell the public that "this film is a complete distortion of his script." Other New York reviewers, with one exception (Lee Mortimer, *New York Daily Mirror*), did not interpret the film from Crowther's viewpoint.

Reginald Armour With Dick Condon

Reginald Armour, former Walt Disney, RKO and RCA executive, has joined Richard (Dick) Condon's public relations office here as executive vice-president in charge of motion picture and television activities, Condon's office announced yesterday.

Armour was European manager for RKO in 1940, having previously established exchanges for RKO in Japan, China and the Philippines. When war broke out he returned to this country as assistant general manager of RKO's studios in Hollywood. In September, 1942, he joined Disney as European manager in London, leaving last year to join a Wall Street house.

Hochstein Trial Put Off Until March 17

Federal Judge Vincent L. Leibell here yesterday postponed until March 17 the trial of Harry Hochstein, former morals inspector of Chicago, accused of perjury. Hochstein, according to an indictment filed against him, falsely swore he knew that certain members of the Capone ring were not present at his Riverside, Ill., home in 1934, when they planned the elevation of George E. Browne to the presidency of the IATSE.

Film Curtailments Cut N. Y. Fees $30,000

ALBANY, Feb. 1.—Reflecting the extent of existing and anticipated curtailment in the number of feature releases, Governor Thomas E. Dewey, in his 1944-45 budget, estimates the revenue to be derived from motion picture censoring fees at $250,000 for the fiscal year ending Mar. 31, 1945. For the current fiscal year the Governor's estimate is $280,000, with $243,239 realized during the first 10 months.

Weinberg on Conference

CHICAGO, Feb. 1.—W. A. Weinberg, manager of the Ken Theatre, was today appointed motion-picture committeeman on the "Conference for Youth" roster of civic leaders who are about to launch a crusade against juvenile delinquency here.

Review

"Jane Eyre"

(20th Century-Fox)

Hollywood, Feb. 1

IN "Jane Eyre," the producer recedes far from these times and their grim realities. He has turned to early 19th century England with its class distinction, its great bounties for the rich and its great poverties for the poor. Against this background is told the beleaguered love story of the brooding Edward Rochester, master of the manor, and Jane Eyre, the genteel governess.

In point of stark and somber mood, this attraction comes off with great credit to the long list of craftsmen charged with the assignment. Pictorially and atmospherically, "Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Bronte, is in the lecided pattern of the famed "Wuthering Heights," from the pen of her ister, Emily Bronte, but in its writing and in its direction, the results are not nearly so successful.

The reason appears to trace to the difficulties of injecting vibrancy and breath into a novel which is heavy-handed and archaic by modern, streamlined standards. By observance to the book, pace obviously had to be in keeping; the 95 minutes of running time seem more than they are.

In its early sequences, "Jane Eyre" is at its best, and that best is excellent. A strong and eerie atmosphere of mystery is successfully caught and maintained. However, when it becomes obvious in due course that Rochester's secret is a mad wife who prevents the culmination of his romance with the heroine, the suspense evaporates and what remains is a long and tortuous path leading to the final reunion. In between is a great deal of suffering on the part of both principals before the insane woman sets the massive country home afire and leaps to her death from its roof.

Rochester, played by Orson Welles, in this treatment by Aldous Huxley, Robert Stevenson, who also directed, and John Houseman, rule the cast. Miss Fontaine is maintained as much in the background as her participation as the other principal apparently would allow. Welles is blustering, domineering and dominating in his performance; he is also, and very often, hammy. Miss Fontaine, on the other hand, does the counterfoil perhaps as well as she was permitted. Under the circumstances, hers is much the better professional job.

The attraction, however, is pretty well caught up in its own heavy trappings and does not succeed in getting out from under.

Creatively, honors clearly go to William Pereira, who designed the production; to James Bavesi and Wiard B. Ihnen, who were responsible for the art direction; to Thomas Little and Ross Dowd for set decorations, and, quite definitely, to George Barnes as director of the highly dramatic black-and-white photography. Margaret O'Brien, Peggy Ann Garner, John Sutton, Sara Allgood, Henry Daniell and Agnes Moorhead are among the support. Of them, Daniell, Miss Moorhead and Peggy Ann are the best. Kenneth MacGowan produced.

Running time, 95 minutes. "G."* Release date, in February, block No. 7.

RED KANN

*"G" denotes general classification.

Hal Danson to Coast In New Para. Post

Hal Danson, Paramount's assistant advertising manager in New York, will be transferred to the Hollywood studio in two weeks to take over the production of trailers formerly handled by Lou Harris, it was announced here yesterday by R. M. Gillham, advertising and publicity director.

In addition to trailer duties, Danson will also develop advertising ideas while pictures are in production with Harris devoting all of his time to production of the two-reel "Musical Parade" series.

Jonas Arnold will take over as press book editor in New York.

Nizer Records Appeal

Louis Nizer, film attorney, has made a 15-minute recording designed to sell war bonds and secure Red Cross blood donations, at the request of the Treasury and the War Activities Committee, and a three-minute recorded appeal to be sent to theatres.

Legion Classifies 7, One Objectionable

The Legion of Decency listed seven films this week, including one Spanish-language picture, as follows:

In Class A-1, for general patronage, were "Bullets and Saddles," Monogram; "The Fighting Seabees," Republic, and "The Texas Kid," Monogram. Universal's "Phantom Lady," Grovas' "Secreto Eterno" (Spanish), and 20th Century-Fox's "Uncensored" were rated Class A-2, for adults. Paramount's "The Uninvited" was put in Class B because it conveyed "credence to spiritualistic practices."

Lt. Meyers is Missing

Fred Meyers, Universal's Eastern sales manager, has been informed by the War Department that his son, First Lieut. Joseph F. Meyers, 21, has been reported missing in action over New Guinea, since Jan. 21. Lt. Meyers, a bomber pilot, enlisted in the Army Air Forces on the day after Pearl Harbor. He attended Valley Forge Military Academy, New York University and Syracuse University.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 1.

THE war bond premiere at the Hill Street, Los Angeles, last night netted $6,140,000 in sales.

•

Inability of the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences to trace the origin of fake award ballots distributed widely in key cities resulted in dropping of the investigation, MOTION PICTURE DAILY learned today. An Academy spokesman told the DAILY, "In view of the fact that the fake ballots cannot possibly be confused with the real ballots, no further steps will be taken."

•

Monogram has signed a release deal with Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz for eight features on the 1944-45 program, marking the sixth consecutive annual contract with this producing team.

•

PRC today announced for production a picture based on the life of Mother Cabrini, first American to be canonized by the Catholic Church, written by Martin Mooney.

•

Monogram has purchased "Youth Gone Wild," an original delinquency story by Robert D. Kehoe.

Arbitration Starts on SPG Wage Dispute

Arbitration hearings between the Screen Publicists Guild of New York and the eight major film companies, Loew's Theatres and RKO Service Corp., will finally get underway here this morning at the offices of the American Arbitration Association.

Aaron Horvitz has been selected by the AAA to complete the three-man panel provided for by the SPG-company contracts. Previously chosen were Aaron Schneider, for the SPG and Major L. E. Thompson, for the companies.

H. N. Glickstein of SPG's counsel will argue the union's case and Burton Zorn will represent the companies. Any wage increase award handed down by the arbitrators and approved by the War Labor Board would be retroactive to May 4, 1943.

KRS Honors Hill, Secretary 25 Years

LONDON, Feb. 1.—Frank Hill, for 25 years secretary of the Kinematograph Renters Society was honored at a luncheon at Claridge's here today.

Among those present were: Sam Eckman, M-G-M British managing director; Francis L. Harley, 20th-Fox British managing director; Joseph Friedman, Columbia's European supervisor, and Phil Reisman, RKO's vice-president in charge of foreign distribution and also 10 KRS past presidents. It was also the occasion of Hill's silver wedding anniversary.

'Bernadette' Sets Record

"The Song of Bernadette" established a new record at the Rivoli here in grossing nearly $60,000 in its first week at the house. The picture played to capacity throughout its first seven days ending last night.

HOLDING OVER
IN ITS SENSATIONAL NEW ENGLAND DATES!

Co

NONE SH

IN SAN FRANCISCO · OA
SACRAMENTO · FRESN
is keeping
of TOP

umbia's

ALL ESCAPE

KLAND · STOCKTON

O · SAN JOSE AND RENO

up its record

TOP GROSSES!

FOURTH WAR LOAN!
A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT!

COLUMBIA PICTURES

'Curie' Clicks With $28,000 In Chicago

CHICAGO, Feb. 1.—"Madame Curie" netted the highest receipts of first runs with $28,000 at the State-Lake. "Where Are Your Children?" and "Unknown Guest" continue their fourth week with record-grosses at the Garrick.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 28:

"The Man from Down Under" (M-G-M) 5 days

"This Is the Army" (WB) 2 days

AFOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,600).

"Johnny Come Lately" (UA)

CHICAGO—(3,850) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Gertrude Niesen and Griff Williams' band. Gross: $43,000. (Average: $45,000)

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)

"Unknown Guest" (Mono.)

GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $8,700).

"Lady Takes a Chance" (RKO)

"Squadron Leader X" (RKO)

GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 5th week in Loop. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $8,900).

"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)

ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $23,400).

"The North Star" (RKO)

"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)

PALACE—(2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $20,000).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)

ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $19,200).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)

STATE-LAKE—(2,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $22,600).

"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)

UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $19,200).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)

WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $10,000).

'Sherlock' and Show Roll Up $34,000

CLEVELAND, Feb. 1.—Biggest attraction of the week was the colored stage show at the Palace, which is piling up a gross headed for a big $34,000, combined with "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" on the screen.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 2:

"Northern Pursuit" (WB)

ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,500).

"Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)

WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $17,500).

"Government Girl" (RKO)

WARNERS LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,000).

"No Time for Love" (Para.)

LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $4,500).

"Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (Univ.)

RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c and 85c Sundays and holidays) 7 days. Stage: Ink Spots, Ella Fitzgerald, Cootie Williams' orchestra. Gross: $34,000. (Average: $22,000).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)

LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $17,500).

"Woman of the Town" (UA)

LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,500).

Town Closes Wednesdays

SUMMERVLLE, Ga., Feb. 1.—Theatres here now close all day Wednesdays in cooperation with local business houses to save coal until the shortage in this area ends.

Reviews

"The Bridge of San Luis Rey"

(Bogeaus-United Artists)

ALMOST 15 years have elapsed since Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer first translated Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize novel, "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," to the screen. The study of the casting of five mortals into eternity while several others are spared in the collapse of the frail rope bridge in 18th Century Peru now comes to the screen as Benedict Bogeaus' initial production for United Artists. Rowland V. Lee, who directed the production for Bogeaus, obviously was not required to spare the budget; he has highlighted the performances of Akim Tamiroff, Lynn Bari, Francis Lederer, Louis Calhern, Nazimova and Donald Woods. It is good screen fare, but the public's reaction is hard to predict.

Howard Estabrook's screenplay derives from an adaptation of the Wilder book by Estabrook and Herman Weissman. Woods plays the role of Brother Juniper, the earnest young priest whose chapel stands near the gorge into which the five persons are plunged when the bridge collapses. His desire to find out why those five were chosen to die brings him to Lima and to likeable Uncle Pio, played by Tamiroff, who unfolds to him the life story of Michaela (Miss Bari), Lima's beloved actress, who rose from a lowly position in life to become the favorite of Spain's Viceroy, Calhern. Michaela allowed her ambition to partake of the life of the aristocracy almost to prove her undoing. She abandoned her former friends to seek new ones among the aristocrats, although she did not gain happiness. In estimating the value of the lives of the five who perished and those who were miraculously spared, Brother Juniper admits his failure in trying to solve the riddle, in confession of the fact that the human mind cannot fathom the designs of the Almighty.

Since the story is of theological nature, with a romance between Miss Bari and Lederer as her sailor fiancee being secondary, the action of the film is on the slow side. Tamiroff delivers a neat performance and Miss Bari and Lederer as her sailor fiance being secondary, the action of the credited with musical direction and composition of the musical numbers upon which Frederick Herbert collaborated.

Running time, 107 mins. "G."* Release date, Feb. 11.

MILT LIVINGSTON

"Passport to Adventure"

(RKO-Radio)

THE slightly whimsical tale about a Cockney London charwoman, possessed of a "magic" charm, who sets out for Berlin during the height of the London "blitz" to settle scores with Herr Hitler, provides Elsa Lanchester with a neat role for her diversified acting talents in "Passport to Adventure." Produced by Herman Schlom and directed by Ray McCarey, this film will provide the customers with an hour's diversion; it also will appeal to action fans.

Val Burton and Muriel Roy Bolton wrote the screen play which makes no attempt at plausibility. Miss Lanchester is lifted bodily out of London by convenient means and is planted in Berlin, armed with her scrubbing pail and brush. Her courage derives from a "magic eye" left by her late husband, Sergeant-Major 'Enry Muggins. Posing as a deaf and dumb mute, she gains employment in the Chancellery. Here she gets a few licks in against Lord Haw Haw, played by Gavin Muir, and helps a Nazi Army officer, Gordon Oliver, become reunited with his fiancee, Leonore Aubert, upon discovering that they are connected with the underground movement. She does not get Hitler but she manages to escape with Oliver and Miss Aubert during the height of a raid on Berlin after she is exposed. Fortunately she does not discover her late husband's duplicity about the "magic eye" until she returns and gains acclaim.

Others in the cast besides Miss Lanchester, Oliver, Miss Aubert and Muir, include Lionel Royce, Fritz Feld and Lloyd Corrigan.

Running time, 64 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

MILT LIVINGSTON

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Bergman Names Ungerf

Maurice Bergman, Universal's Eastern advertising and publicity manager, has placed Robert Ungerfeld in charge of special promotion of "V" pictures opening at the Criterion here. Ungerfeld has been with Universal in the exploitation department for more than a year handling out-of-town assignments.

RCA Labs Given Star

A star representing another six months of achievement in the war effort has been awarded RCA Laboratories, Princeton, N. J., according to word received from the Navy by RCA. This brings to 16 the number of awards for accomplishments in the war effort won by RCA divisions and subsidiaries.

'Lodger,' 'Pin-Ups' Survive Competition

CINCINNATI, Feb. 1.—Additional opposition from legitimate theatre and other sources, plus unseasonably mild weather found reflection in a downward trend over the weekend, although "The Lodger" as the feature and a "Hollywood Pin-Up Girls" revue on the stage looks good for around $23,500 at RKO's Albee. "Madame Curie" will probably give the RKO Capitol $12,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 2-5:

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)

RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: "Hollywood Pin-Up Girls." Gross: $23,500. (Average: $22,000)

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)

RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000).

"Minesweeper" (Para.)

"Charlie Chan's Secret Weapon" (Mono.)

RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,500. (Average: $1,400).

"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)

"Blazing Frontier" (RKO)

RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $750. (Average: $800).

"No Time for Love" (Para.)

RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. 3rd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).

"Three Russian Girls" (UA)

KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,300. (Average: $5,000)

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)

RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 4th week, moveover from three weeks at the Capitol. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,200).

"The Desert Song" (WB)

RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)

"Government Girl" (RKO)

RKO SHUBERT—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Palace. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000).

'Havoc' at $18,400 Is Buffalo Leader

BUFFALO, Feb. 1.—"Cry 'Havoc'" looks like the leader here this week with an expected $18,400 at the Buffalo. "Tarzan's Desert Mystery" at the 20th Century and "Where Are Yourr Children" at the Lafayette are bidding for better-than-average weeks.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5:

"Cry 'Havoc'" (M-G-M)

"In Our Time" (WB)

BUFFALO—(3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $18,400. (Average: $16,500).

"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)

GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $16,400).

"Frisco Kid" (WB)

"Here Comes Elmer" (Rep.)

HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,500)

"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)

"Adventures of a Rookie" (RKO)

TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $11,400. (Average: $10,600).

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)

"Spotlight Scandals" (Mono.)

LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,500).

White to New York

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—Stephen White, reporter on the *Boston Herald*, formerly in the motion picture industry here and Boston representative for film trade papers, has resigned to join the editorial staff of the New York *Herald-Tribune* in New York.

COME TO MY PARTY!



Yes, my "coming out" party . . . first appearance on the screen . . . maybe you paid to see the Broadway shows "LADY IN THE DARK" and "LET'S FACE IT" in which I appeared . . . this one's "for free" because it's a trade showing of the new Samuel Goldwyn production distributed by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. It's in Technicolor and in it are radiant Dinah Shore, lovely Constance Dowling, dashing Dana Andrews, a screen full of gorgeous Goldwyn girls (and me). Oh yes, the title is "UP IN ARMS."

GALA NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING

NORMANDIE THEATRE

51 E. 53rd St. at Park Ave., New York, N.Y.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th

at 10 A. M. Sharp

Danny Kaye

RKO Houses Double 1943 'Dimes' Take

RKO Theatres collected $205,000 in the 1944 "March of Dimes" drive, an increase of nearly 100 per cent over last year, when $107,000 was obtained, E. L. Alperson, general manager, reported here yesterday.

Similar reports being received here from other quarters assure a national total of from $3,500,000 to $4,000,000.

Samuel Rinzler of the 40 Randforce houses in Brooklyn reports collections tabulated to date indicate an increase of from 150 to 200 per cent over 1943. Nine Brandt Theatres in New York tripled their collections, this year's take being $10,320 against $3,600 in the last drive, while Max Cohen's Cinema Circuit of 12 shows a 128 per cent boost. Thirty-seven Century Circuit houses in Queens, Brooklyn, and Long Island, doubled their last year's collections of $13,934, the 1944 report showing $26,097.

Charles Poole, Southern California Chairman, reports collections exceeded all records there. Moe Silver, chairman for Western Pennsylvania, reports Warner Theatres in his zone 50 per cent ahead, and other houses running a minimum of 40 per cent over last year.

For the District of Columbia, John Payette and Carter Barron report collections of $80,074, compared with a 1943 figure of $31,000. The Schine circuit in New York realized $50,000, whereas $20,000 came in there last year.

Refuses Injunction On 'Rhine' Booking

TORONTO, Feb. 1.—Considerable interest has been aroused in Toronto film head offices over a decision handed down in Montreal by Mr. Justice Casgrain of the Supreior Court dismissing an application of Garson and Lane, operating the Kent Theatre, for an injunction restraining the Snowden Theatre from playing "Watch on the Rhine," the applicants claiming priority in a zone booking setup. The Snowden is a chain unit of the United Amusement Corp., which is affiliated with Famous Players Canadian Corp.

Performances of the picture proceeded as scheduled as a result of the decision. The applicants contended they had a contract for Warner product at the time of the government basic period in 1941 when the industry's practices were frozen by a federal order. It was brought out in evidence that the Snowden opened in 1937 while the Kent is a comparatively new theatre, being constructed several years later. The decision may have a bearing on all rental contracts in effect at the time of the basic period.

Goldberg to Handle 'Phantom' Promotion

Lou Goldberg and Associates has been engaged by Universal Pictures to handle special promotions for "Phantom Lady," it was announced here yesterday by Maurice Bergman, 'U's' eastern advertising and publicity director.

Goldberg has already left on a tour of key cities to launch special radio and advertising campaigns for "Lady."

Reviews

"Escape to Danger"

(RKO Radio)

"ESCAPE TO DANGER," RKO release of a British-made film, is an absorbing tale of espionage and counter-espionage which gains added interest in the telling from the currency of its theme, the invasion of "Fortress Europe." It is principally on this angle that exhibitors should conduct their selling campaign.

Ann Dvorak, secretly an adherent of the Allies, goes on a mission for the Nazis to secure information on the massing of invasion craft. En route, her ship is torpedoed and she is picked up by a British vessel. Snatched from the sea, too, is Eric Portman, a drunken Englishman. In England, Miss Dvorak establishes contact with a spy ring there led by Ronald Ward. Obtaining possession of stationery of A. E. Matthews, commander of the invasion barges and the father of David Peel, a naval surgeon, who has befriended her, Miss Dvorak secures employment for Ivor Barnard, a member of the ring, in a barge factory. All this is planned by Portman, revealed as a British security officer, to lure the German Navy into a trap. The spy leaps to the bait, installs an automatic transmitter in a barge due to sail and is apprehended, but not before he has slain Miss Dvorak. British radio men operate the transmitter, which acts as a decoy for the Nazis, whose naval units are destroyed.

An excellent British cast, with Miss Dvorak the lone American, helps, by authentic characterizations, to keep the action moving. Eric Portman is convincing as a British G-Man, as is Ann Dvorak, as the girl enmeshed in intrigue; while Karel Stepanek, Ronald Ward, Ronald Adam, A. E. Matthews, David Peel, Ivor Barnard, Brefni O'Rorke and Hay Petrie, and others, while lacking American marquee value, register with solid performances. Lance Comfort and Mutz Greenbaum directed with proper appreciation for suspense and mystery; while Patrick Kirwan has kept his plot sufficiently involved to keep one guessing. A grim reality is imparted to the fanciful spy story, with shots of the British fleet, coastal batteries in action and invasion barges headed for a secret base.

Running time, 84 mins. "G."* Release date, not set.

CHARLES RYWECK

"Klondike Kate"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, Feb. 1

SOMETHING in the way of slight change, "Klondike Kate" is about the Klondike when it was rough, and up to the point where they dump the story overboard in order to get to the fisticuffs it lays more than normal claim to interest. The slugging-fest deflates the plot then, however, and the fast fadeout finalizes the project promptly.

Ann Savage and Tom Neal are the principals, she playing the girl who goes to the Klondike to claim a dance hall willed her by her father, and he portraying the smoothie who has taken over the place and determines to hang on to it. Sheldon Leonard, as a rival slicker, supplies perhaps the strongest portrayal in the picture. The complications in M. Coates Webster's screenplay, based on a story by himself and Houston Branch and rife with 1944 phraseology, hold attention until decision is made to wind them up in a brawl. Irving Briskin produced and William Castle directed. Early portions of the film reflect more credit upon them than the latter sections.

Running time, 62 minutes. "G."* Release date, Dec. 16, 1943.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Marseilles' Premiere

Warners' "Passage to Marseilles" starring Humphrey Bogart will have its world premiere at the Hollywood Theatre in New York on Feb. 16, following the nine-week run of "Desert Song." The picture will be nationally released on Mar. 11.

'Our Town' Revival

A revival of "Our Town," starring Martha Scott and William Holden, will be presented at the Manhattan Theatre here beginning Saturday.

Sanford Signs Interboro

Bert Sanford, Altec Service New York district manager, has re-signed service and parts contracts for the 21 theatres of the Interboro Circuit here.

Para. Screening 'Dark'

Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" will be shown to exhibitors for the first time in New York and Los Angeles tomorrow, with the New York showing set for the Normandie Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Trade showings in all other exchange centers will be held on Feb. 28.

Set 'Hargrove' Shows

M-G-M's "See Here, Private Hargrove" will be tradeshown in exchanges Feb. 24, with the exception of Charlotte, where it is set for Feb. 12, the company announced here yesterday. The film's world premiere will take place at the Carolina Theatre, Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 19.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Feb. 1

M-G-M's short subject department reached its production peak for the season during the week with gears in motion for release of 15 subjects, representing 25 per cent of the 19[illegible] 44 program, during the next [illegible] months. Before the cameras are "Easy Life," two-reel special, and John Nesbitt's "Dreams," with "The Immortal Blacksmith" scheduled for the stages this week. Preparing are: "Animal Talent Scout," "Art Discovers America," "How a Doctor Becomes Famous," "Story of a Forgotten Drug" and "History of a Nation." Seven editing include: "Main Street Today," "Groovie Movie," "Important Business," "Patrolling the Ether," "A Little Child," "Dancing Romeo" and "Tale of a Dog."

●

With the cooperation of the Pantages Theatre Corp., headed by Lloyd Pantages, Samuel Goldwyn will stage an "all-out" benefit premiere of his "Up in Arms," starring Danny Kaye, at the Hollywood here March 3. All funds will go to the Hollywood Guild Canteen headed by Anne Lehr, where 5,000 servicemen a week are provided quarters while on leave. . . . Paramount is staging its world premiere of "Lady in the Dark" at the Hollywood Paramount Theatre on Feb 9, with Army, Navy and Marine Corps officers on the invitational list.

●

Ernst Lubitsch, reported fully recovered from a recent illness, has started preparation for his next at 20th Century-Fox under a three-picture contract. He will produce "Dragonwyck," from an original novel of early Dutch settlers on the Hudson written by Anya Seton. His contract also provides for him to direct as well as produce the last of the three provided for in the agreement.

Trade Showings of 'Navy Way' Slated

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—William Pine and William Thomas, Paramount producers, will leave here Feb. 18 for New York with a print of "The Navy Way" for trade showings in 10 key cities along their route, in San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Denver and Chicago on their way East, and in Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis and Kansas City on their return.

Pine and Thomas have also set the first week in June as the starting date for "Storm," picturization of the George Stewart novel.

To Film 'Mr. Broadway'

Warners yesterday announced the early production of "Mister Broadway," a story of the late Sime Silverman, founder of *Variety*, by Abel Green, its editor. The production has been assigned to Arthur Schwartz as his first for Warners.

Para. Premiere in D. C.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Paramount's "Standing Room Only," dealing with housing conditions in wartime Washington, will have its world premiere at Loew's Palace here on Thursday.

PHOTOGRAPHY'S "SECOND FRONT"

More than a hundred war products now made of material developed for a better Kodak Film

FILM BASE IS A PLASTIC—one of the earliest. To make a better film, Kodak long ago began producing from cotton linters a "miracle material": cellulose acetate.

In the form of TENITE—made by Tennessee Eastman Corporation, a Kodak subsidiary—this plastic is tough as a steer's horn and lighter than wood. It can be molded under heat or pressure, or "machined" like lumber or metal. It can be clear transparent, or in an unlimited range of colors.

Tenite is molded into finished products at the fastest rate ever reached with plastics. It led to a minor "industrial revolution" before the war or wartime shortages were dreamed of . . .

Now it has more than a hundred war applications—not as a substitute, but as a superior material. As an extra advantage, it does supplant other "critical" materials.

A few war uses are illustrated . . . In a sense, they all started with photography—the ever-growing need for finer film . . . Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

REMEMBER TORPEDO SQUADRON 8? *. . . how, knowing exactly what the odds against them were, this heroic band of 30 Navy fliers drove unswervingly into the massed fire of the Japanese fleet off Midway? And only one man survived? A stern example to us at home.* **BUY MORE WAR BONDS.**



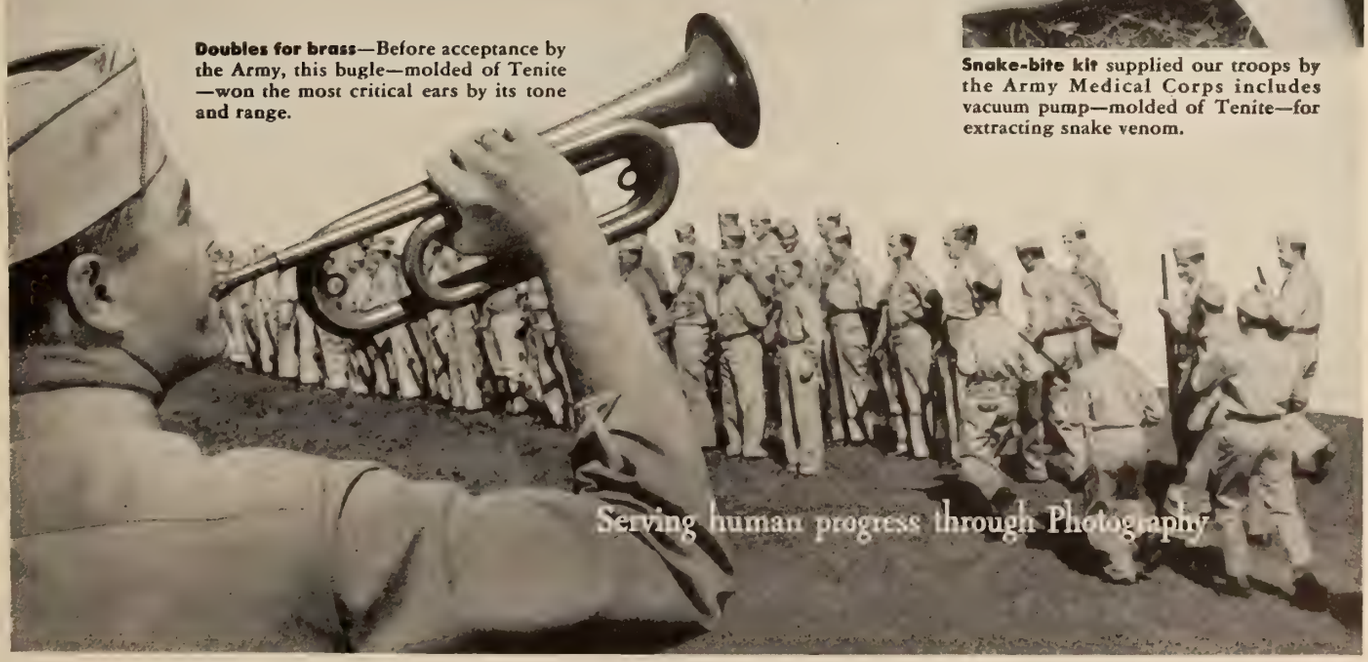
He controls the Jeep with a Tenite steering wheel—strong, tough, and able to stand all climates. Your own car probably has a Tenite steering wheel, instrument panel, accessories.



His bayonet scabbard is Tenite—lighter, tougher, more easily cleaned . . . Cost is little more than half that of scabbards made with earlier materials.



Snake-bite kit supplied our troops by the Army Medical Corps includes vacuum pump—molded of Tenite—for extracting snake venom.



Doubles for brass—Before acceptance by the Army, this bugle—molded of Tenite—won the most critical ears by its tone and range.

Serving human progress through Photography

Clark Reveals Majors' 'Final' Decree Offer

(Continued from page 1)

do bring distributor-owned houses under arbitration.

Company opposition to regional appeal boards, it has been disclosed, was based on the ground that confusion would be caused by the conflicting decisions which might be handed down in the various jurisdictions.

Another proposal which was not incorporated in the distributor's proposed program was that relating to block selling, and which, as at present, would prohibit the offering of pictures in blocks by distributors but permit the buying of blocks by exhibitors.

Application of new provisions relating to circuit expansion would have the effect practically of freezing the circuits where they are now. However, the question of distributor ownership of theatres is not to be settled in the decree, and these provisions would in no way commit the Department not to reinstitute the New York anti-trust suit for divorcement which has long been under consideration.

Distributors agree to pay cash penalties to exhibitors for forcing shorts or newsreels and agree to discontinue all pooling arrangements and also to cancel existing product franchises between defendant companies and others.

Advance trade showings would be continued, as would permission to cancel any picture on moral, religious or racial grounds, provided notice is given to an exchange within five days of availability.

The distributors also agree not to withhold prints to give a competitor a prior playing date. With minor exceptions, it was said, the remainder of the proposals are about the same as in the present decree.

ITOA of New York To Confer with Clark

Harry Brandt, president; Leo Brecher and Max Cohen, directors, and Mel Albert, attorney, of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York, will go to Washington next Tuesday to confer with Assistant U. S. Attorney-General Tom C. Clark on distributor revisions in the consent decree.

IF... YOU ARE SEEKING A NEW BUSINESS CONNECTION.

IF... YOU ARE SEEKING EXPERT PERSONNEL FOR AN EXPANDING ORGANIZATION.

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FRANK McGRANN
POSITION SECURING BUREAU, Inc.
(Agency)
331 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. MU.2-6494

Skouras Buys Bonds from 230 West Coast Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

try's 4th War Loan Drive committee. Skouras made the purchase on behalf of Mrs. Skouras, Charles, Jr., and himself.

The campaign took on greater impetus yesterday as the special representatives of the national committee, comprising top ranking executives of the industry, set out on their "flying bondsmen" tour. It is expected that more than 40 exhibitor meetings will be held throughout the country on a "Special Representatives Day" in each territory.

One of the first meetings will be held in Wilmington, Del., at the Warner Theatre with Robert Mochrie, general sales manager of RKO attending. Leonard Goldenson, vice-president of Paramount in charge of theatres, flew to Buffalo early yesterday and met with WAC chairmen and others there. Later in the day he attended a similar session in Albany.

Ella Raines at Home, Gets $1,000 a Minute

Reports on the weekend activities of the Hollywood "Bondbardiers" were highlighted by the visit of Ella Raines to her home town, Snoqualmie, Wash., where the population of 750 subscribed for bonds at the rate of $1,000 a minute. Miss Raines' talk had the audience in tears.

Preston Foster and Nancy Kelly made their initial Pittsburgh appearance at the Lee C. Moore plant on Neville Island and set a record for "E" bonds sales for one day. The stars are scheduled to address workers in all main plants of the nation's steel center during the week.

Making appearances at the Bethlehem Ship Yards No. 1 and No. 2 and at Bendix Aviation plant and at the Western Electric plant in Watertown, Mass., Frances Dee and Alan Marshall sent payroll deductions way above quotas. The stars also appeared at civic bond rallies in Milton and Leominster.

Gene Tierney and Anthony Quinn held rallies in Montgomery and Mexico, Mo., and helped put these towns among the first in the state to go over their quotas.

In New Orleans Errol Flynn wound up a tour over the weekend with a record sale of 2,700 bonds at the Lake Charles Junior College auditorium.

Payroll deduction records are being shattered in the Minneapolis territory by Arline Judge and Dennis Morgan. At the Northwestern National Life Insurance Co., the Durkee-Atwood Co., and the Army-Navy rallies at the University of Minnesota, the stars piled up record bond sales.

Smalley Theatres Put On 'Free Movie Week'

COOPERSTOWN, N. Y., Feb. 1.—W. C. Smalley, of Smalley Theatres, Inc., has scheduled "Free Movie Week" instead of "Free Movie Day." Bond purchasers will be admitted for any picture during the week's run. This plan is being followed in half the Smalley houses, with the other half running a free premiere one day.

Hynes Aids Selig

Bernie Hynes, manager of the Denver Theatre, Denver, Colo., is assisting Robert Selig, assistant industry campaign manager, who has charge of the "Honored Hundred" contest.

Seek Improvement In Preview System

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—At a regular meeting of the Industry Information Committee, publicity directors have gone on record as "in favor of plugging all loopholes in the present preview system, which home office advices state has been of great benefit to the industry."

The situation was reappraised in view of an increasing trend toward collapse of the system under which newspapers here were bound not to review or publish comment until pictures opened local engagements. Also noted was an increasing tendency of studio press departments to seek special breaks ahead of showings for exhibitors and the trade press.

Art Moger Joins Warner Field Staff

Art Moger, former promotion editor and contact man for Hearst in New England and known also as a radio script writer, newspaperman and trade paper correspondent, has joined Warner's field public relations staff as New England representative, it was announced here yesterday by Mort Blumenstock, Eastern advertising-publicity director. Moger, former MOTION PICTURE DAILY correspondent in Boston, will make his headquarters in that city.

$4,000,000 in Bonds Are Bought by RKO

RKO Theatres and RKO Radio Pictures have bought $4,000,000 worth of bonds in the 4th War Loan Drive. Arrangements have been made to allocate credit for the purchases through the War Finance Committees of the cities where the circuit has theatres or exchange branches.

In the local Metropolitan area here the purchase amounted to $1,000,000, with $815,000 being credited to New York City.

Cohen Heads Skouras Luncheon Committee

Max A. Cohen, president of Cinema Circuit here, has been named chairman of the reception committee for the luncheon to honor Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry's 4th War Loan Drive, which will be held in the Waldorf-Astoria on Monday, as sponsored by local exhibitors, with Leo Brecher, Norman Elsen and Sam Shain completing the reception group.

The keynote will be the fulfillment here of the "bond for every seat" aim, according to Harry Brandt, luncheon committee chairman.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 137 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

WILLIAM HARTFORD, Balboa Theatre, Everett, Wash.
MARGARET LANSING, WYO Theatre, Sheridan, Wyo.
WARREN BARTLETT, RKO Columbia Theatre, Far Rockaway, N. Y.
J. M. MILLER, Dixie Theatre, Cordova, Ala.
KENNETH E. WRIGHT, American Theatre, Winnemucca, Nev.
C. L. KNOLL, Time Theatre, Mitchell, S. D.
MAJOR I. C. HOLLOWAY, Center Theatre, Lenoir, N. C.

Exhibitor Decree Brief Due Feb. 9

(Continued from page 1)

committee to compose the brief and present it to Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark in Washington were: Col. Harry A. Cole, president of the Allied Theatre Owners of Texas; William F. Crockett of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Virginia; Robert H. Poole, executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, and Jessie Stern. Formation of such a group was predicted yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Brief to Ask Concessions

Indications are that the brief will state numerous points on which the exhibitors remain unsatisfied and that it will ask for further concessions from the distributors and clarification of proposals now in their draft.

The outstanding feature of tomorrow's session of the Independents' meeting here will be a proposal for a national conference of all exhibitors on the subject of theatre taxation. Leaders of this movement are understood to seek the formation of a permanent committee which would oppose the increase of admission taxes to a point where they may threaten the usefulness of films as a wartime morale builder and which would also keep an eagle eye on any other forms of undesirable legislation.

Kennedy to Universal

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—James Kennedy, well known on local Film Row, has joined Universal's sales staff here.

Theatre Management Record and Annual Tax Register

■ Easy accounting system that enables you to keep an accurate, complete and up-to-the-minute record of the business of your theatre. $2.00 Postpaid

QUIGLEY BOOKSHOP
Rockefeller Center, New York (20)

Canadians Meet To Outline Trade 'Unity' Program

(Continued from page 1)

of Ontario had nothing to do with today's conference but its agitation for unanimity perhaps inspired the overture from the Ontario council. Incidentally, the MPTA of Ontario incorporates Famous Players, Odeon, Allen and 20th Century circuits as well as recognized independent owners.

One outcome of the peace move may be the adoption of a working agreement between the Ontario council and the MPTA of Ontario to effect cooperation in matters affecting all theatres, particularly with regard to Federal and Provincial Government regulations. An ominous note currently, however, is the scheduled conference at Ottawa Feb. 8, at which the National Council of Independents, jointly led by A. J. Mason of Springhill, N. S., and Henry Falk of Toronto, are to place trade grievances before the heads of the Government's Wartime Prices and Trade Board, excepting the immediate possibility of a tempering of the petition as a result of the harmony move here.

All Branches Represented

Apart from independent theatre representatives, those in attendance included J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp. and Haskell J. Masters, head of Odeon Theatres of Canada thus giving representation to all branches of the trade. Unavoidably absent among distributors' general managers were Louis Rosenfeld of Columbia Pictures, who was out of the city and Wolfe Cohen, district manager for Warner Bros., who was sick at home.

No formal announcement was made following the luncheon but it is understood that definite progress was made. Officers of the Ontario council headed by Freedman, together with Falk, went into private session later in the day to discuss developments.

To the question whether the outcome of the peace parley would be cancellation of the Ottawa meeting, the reply was noncommittal, but it is believed today's conference will have a direct bearing on the talk.

Recently elected officers of the Ontario council of Independents, who acted as hosts today, are: President, Ben Freedman; vice-president, Harry Lester; treasurer, Sam Strashin; secretary, H. L. Romberg, and directors, Max Starkman, Tom Walton and Bruce McLead of Kitchener, Ont.

Holland Services Held

Funeral services were held here recently for Mildred Holland, 74, described as one of the first stage actresses to appear in films. She starred in her own production, "The Power Behind the Throne." Following her retirement from films and the stage she became a teacher of drama. Among her pupils were Claudette Colbert, Mady Christians, Lee Patrick and Franklyn Pangborn.

Susman to Paramount

BUFFALO, Feb. 1.—George Sussman, 20th-Fox officer manager here for 10 years, has joined Paramount sales staff here. Milton Smith has taken over the Syracuse sales area for 20th-Fox.

Review

"Weekend Pass"

(Universal)

"WEEKEND PASS," latest Universal entry in the minor comedy-with-music sweepstakes, is mildly diverting, largely due to the fresh personalities of Martha O'Driscoll and Noah Beery, Jr., and the smooth singing of the Delta Rhythm Boys and the Leo Diamond Quintet. Miss O'Driscoll and Beery register comparatively appealing performances, with the lady also taking time out to raise her voice in song. There are several excellent melodies; one in particular, "We Build 'em, You Sail 'em," appears destined to catch on. A lightweight story, however, limits opportunities of the participants.

The story concerns Beery, a shipyard worker who, after the regimentation of barracks-like quarters, heads only for "a bath and innerspring mattress," when granted a weekend pass. He becomes involved, however, with Miss O'Driscoll, an aspiring WAC, to the dismay of her grandfather, George Barbier, head of a naval academy, who has reported her missing. Miss O'Driscoll enlists Beery in her attempts to keep away from her home until she can achieve her majority and join the WACs without Barbier's consent. Beery finally takes the recalcitrant Miss O'Driscoll home, where she clears him of a kidnapping charge and waives her objections to the WAVES.

Lotte Stein, Irving Bacon, Andrew Tomes and Mayris Chaney, the dancer, round out the cast. Jean Yarbrough directed, while the screen play was handled by Claude Bruckman, derived from a Warren Wilson story. Wilson was also associate producer.

Running time, 63 mins. Release date, Feb. 18. "G."*

CHARLES RYWECK

*"G" denotes general classification.

N. Y. 'Times' Buys Inter-State Stock

Arthur Hays Sulzberger, president and publisher of the New York *Times*, and John V. L. Hogan and Elliott M. Sanger, president and executive vice-president, respectively, of Inter-State Broadcasting Co., jointly announced here last night the sale of Inter-State, which operates Station WQXR in New York, and FM Station WZXQ, to the *Times*. The purchase is subject to approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

Hogan and Sanger will continue their association with Inter-State under five-year contracts. For the present the *Times* will continue its news bulletins over Station WMCA. Nicholas Roosevelt has been named by the *Times* as liaison between the *Times* and its radio interests.

RCA Building Heads Tax Evaluations

For the second consecutive year, the RCA Building in Rockefeller Center has received the highest assessed valuation of any business structure in the city, according to a report by William Mills, president of the New York City Tax Commission.

Prominent on the list are Radio City Music Hall and the Criterion Theatre assessed at $11,700,000 and $6,475,000, respectively.

Frank W. McKee Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1. — Frank W. McKee, 76, songwriter, died here recently. A charter member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, McKee wrote the music for "Cecile," "Millicent" and "Lucille." A widow survives.

Distributors' Principal Proposals for New Decree

(Continued from page 1)

to amendment, later to provide that the distributor shall go into court in the locality where the acquisition is contemplated, as desired by exhibitors, or to provide for filing of applications without publicity, as sought by distributors.

Pooling: **Defendants agree to discontinue all pooling arrangements, whether relating to joint ownership of operation of theatres or joint buying arrangements.**

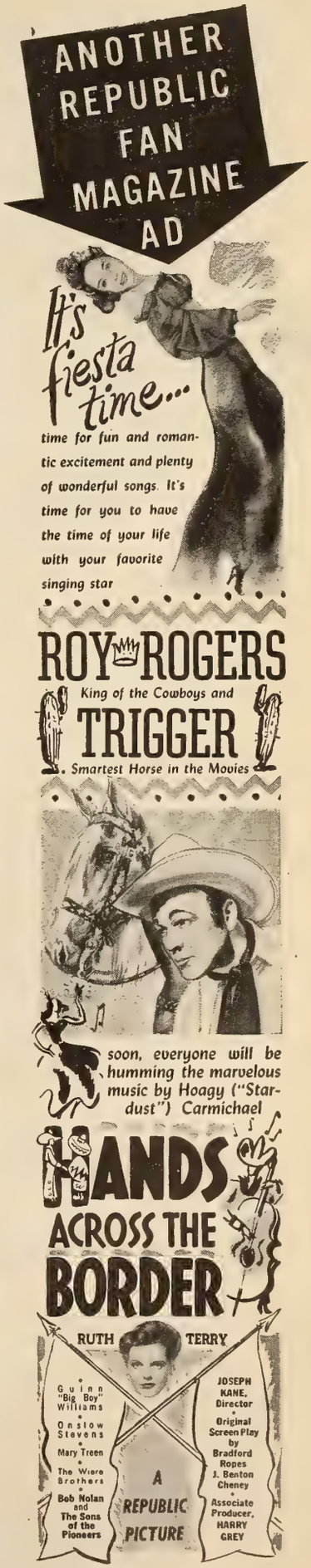
Franchises: **All product franchises to be terminated. Franchises between defendant companies to be cancelled immediately; those held by non-defendants to be cancelled if possible, or, if not, terminated when existing contracts expire.**

Withholding of Prints: **Withholding to give a competitor a prior playing date prohibited.**

Forcing of Shorts and Newsreels: **To be prohibited and distributors subject to fine of $250 for first offense and $500 for subsequent offences in cases where arbitration decision finds a violation to have occurred, the penalty money to be paid to the exhibitor.**

Trade Shows: **All pictures to be trade shown in advance of sale.**

Moral, Religious and Racial Cancellations: **To be permitted within five days after notice of availability.**





WHO WAS THAT LADY I SEEN YOU WITH?

That was no lady... that was my new box-office champ "PHANTOM LADY" ✻



✻ *See* "PHANTOM LADY" *and you'll know what we mean!*

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4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 24 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1944 TEN CENTS

Columbia to Make 4 to 6 More in '44-5

Increase to Meet Smaller Exhibitors' Needs

"Columbia contemplates increasing its feature release total for 1944-45 by from four to six, exclusive of Westerns, over the 44 to be released this season," A. Montague, general sales manager, revealed here yesterday in an interview at the Hotel Warwick where a three-day sales conference is in session. Reason for an increase, according to Montague, is that smaller exhibitors need more pictures and Columbia will not turn to reissues.



Abe Montague

(*Continued on page 3*)

Army Gets 10,000th Gift 16mm Program

The 10,000th 16mm program of the industry's gift of films to the Army for free showing to men in combat areas was accepted by Lt. General Brehon Somervell, Commanding General, Army Service Forces, from industry

(*Continued on page 8*)

MGM's Next Block Will Again Have 12

M-G-M's third block for 1943-44 will probably comprise 12 pictures; the first and second groups likewise, each consisted of 12.

William F. Rodgers, vice-president in charge of distribution, now vacationing in Miami, is scheduled to return to New York on Feb. 14 and then leave for the Coast to confer with M-G-M studio officials on product to make up the third group.

Completed films available are: "America," "White Cliffs," "Meet the People," "Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble," "Mr. Co-Ed," "Gas Light," "Two Sisters and a Sailor," "The Canterville Ghost" and "Kismet." Four other films are nearing completion; they are: "Dragon," "The Seventh Cross," "Meet Me in St. Louis" and "National Velvet."

Allied Will Poll Membership on Tax Council Proposal

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—The Allied States Association's board of directors, in its annual meeting here, today deferred action on the proposal to join with exhibitors of all classes in a national united-front council on taxation matters.

Instead a committee was appointed to investigate the question further and to poll the membership by mail on the proposal. Named to head the study group was P. J. Wood, secretary

(*Continued on page 8*)

Balaban, Agnew to Open Para. Meeting

With sales policies and promotional plans for "Lady in the Dark" and "The Story of Dr. Wassell" the principal topics of discussion, Paramount district managers and advertising representatives will meet with home office executives in a three-day session at the Hotel Pierre, New York, beginning tomorrow morning. Neil Agnew, sales manager, will preside, and Barney Balaban, president, and Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of the studio, will address the sessions.

Business sessions will get under way in the morning with Agnew welcoming the delegates, following which Balaban will make the opening ad-

(*Continued on page 9*)

209 to Share RKO $100,000 Bonus

The Treasury Department has given its approval to RKO Theatres' bonus plan which will give 209 managers, assistants, zone, division and city managers and theatre publicists approximately $100,000, Edward L. Alperson, general manager, said yesterday.

The bonus will be given also to those employes in qualifying categories who were with the company during the period the bonus was earned and are now in the Armed Forces.

Details will be disclosed at a luncheon at the 21 Club here on Friday, to be attended by local theatre managers and home office executives.

175,000 in Bond Drive, Skouras Informs Gamble

An estimate that 175,000 motion picture people are actively working for the 4th War Loan Drive has been made by Charles P. Skouras, national chairman for the industry, in a report to Ted Gamble, national chairman of the War Finance Division of the U. S. Treasury. This is said to be the largest number of persons in the history of the business ever to turn their efforts to one public movement.

The report to Gamble points out

(*Continued on page 8*)

"The Sullivans"

[*20th Century-Fox*]

THE life story of the five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, Iowa, who were killed aboard the *U.S.S. Juneau* when it was destroyed by the Japs in an action off the Solomons, has become a distinguished, emotionally powerful motion picture through the ministrations of Sam Jaffe, producer, and Lloyd Bacon, director. It is a picture that will sell itself magnificently and will win legions of salesmen wherever it is shown.

"The Sullivans" as a motion picture is a distillation of Americanism, of American family life and American boyhood. Whereas it has emerged from the war, it is not a war story. Rather, it is a story of life that found its ending in warfare. As a motion picture, it is so constructed and so revealed. Yet it is a story that wartime makes more poignant and more significant. And for the many who have lost a loved one in their country's service, there is the inspiration and the example in the courage of the mother who lost her five sons in a single action.

BEGINNING with the baptism at Irish frequency of the six Sullivan children, five boys and a girl, the camera follows their growth, training and development with a selection of incident and depiction of American family life so discerning that there will be few who see it

(*Continued on page 3*)

Rank Enlists KRS and CEA In World Bid

Proposed New Council to Include All Elements

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Feb. 2.—J. Arthur Rank met "secretly" here today with Francis W. Baker and Henry Simpson, presidents, respectively, of the Kinematograph Renters Society and the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association to propose measures of industry policy believed to be linked to current plans for the expansion of the British industry in world markets.

Rank proposed the establishment of a grand council for the industry consisting of representatives of producers, distributors and exhibitors in order, firstly, to resist any attempt for governmental control; secondly, to convince the nation of the industry's ideals and sense of responsibility.

Rank declared that he was im-

(*Continued on page 9*)

WMC Hearing Set On Exchange Status

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.—The regional War Manpower Commission here, in the first meeting of its kind in the country, will hold a hearing on Feb. 8 to consider classifying of film exchange employes as "locally needed." If the Commission acts favorably it is expected to ease the manpower situation for local film exchanges. A favorable ruling would

(*Continued on page 9*)

Briggs' Resignation Confirmed by PRC

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—Producers Releasing Corp. here today confirmed the resignation of O. Henry Briggs as president, effective immediately. As indicated in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Tuesday, Robert Young is in line for the presidency of PRC, Inc., a new unit which will become the top company of assorted film and theatrical realty interests of the controlling Young financial group, with Kenneth Young acting as board chairman and John Young continuing as president of Pathe Laboratories, Inc. It is anticipated that Leon Fromkess will become president of the various PRC controlled film companies.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 2

SPYROS SKOURAS and Earl I. Sponable arrived here today from New York.

•

Paramount announced it will open "Dr. Wassell" in London simultaneously with openings in this country, acting on the suggestion of David E. Rose, who left here Monday for New York for a two-week stay, after which he will return to England.

•

A meeting of Academy Foundation sponsors with industry leaders scheduled for this week, has been postponed until after Feb. 21 because several people whose presence is required will be out of the city until then.

•

W. Ray Johnston announced today that Monogram has signed its third successive annual releasing deal with King Brothers, calling for three pictures on its '44-45 program.

•

Jack Gross will report to RKO on Monday in his new post as executive assistant to Charles W. Koerner as well as executive producer at RKO.

•

Walter Wanger will leave Sunday for a fortnight in New York and Washington.

•

Edwin Silverman of the Essanness circuit, Chicago, is in Hollywood.

'Seabees' Launched In Three More Cities

Previews and receptions to launch Republic's "The Fighting Seabees" will be held today at the Jung Hotel, New Orleans, and at the Hotel Schroeder, Milwaukee. The picture will open in New Orleans on Feb. 12, at the Saenger, and in Milwaukee's Riverside on Feb. 11.

Last night over $2,000,000 in war bonds were sold at a bond premiere of the picture in Oklahoma City. Governor Kerr addressed the gathering. Among others present were Ed Kidwell and Jack Swiger of Standard Theatres; C. B. Akers, chairman of the 4th War Loan Drive in Oklahoma and Glen Alt, Republic branch manager in Oklahoma City.

Sturges, Henigson May Form Company

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—Preston Sturges is organizing his own company in association with Henry Henigson, according to reliable reports here. A releasing deal with United Artists may be concluded by the new company. Sturges' contract with Paramount expired last October.

A proposal for release of Preston Sturges' films by United Artists has been broached, an official of the latter company stated yesterday, but has not yet been advanced to any formal stage of negotiation.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM SCULLY, Universal's general sales manager, is expected to arrive in New York after several weeks of studio conferences on the Coast.

•

ALFRED WILLIAM SHACKLEFORD, manager of the Capitol and Roxy, Lethbridge, Sask., was unanimously elected mayor of the city at the first 1944 meeting of the city council. This is his 25th year as an exhibitor.

•

HARRY DAVID, general manager of Northio Theatre Corp., Cincinnati, is visiting in New York. He is accompanied by WILLIAM BORACK, his assistant.

•

HENRY HERBEL, Warners' Western district manager, has returned to Los Angeles from a Pacific Northwest trip.

•

I. F. SHAKER, operating theatres in Hanna and Kindersley, Sask., was recently reelected for a tenth term as mayor of Hanna, Alta.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Southern and Canadian sales manager for Universal, left here yesterday for Toronto, and will return at the weekend.

•

PHIL FOX, Columbia Buffalo branch manager, and MRS. FOX last week observed their wedding anniversary and the birthdays of their two sons.

•

HELEN SCANNELL, contract clerk, and ALICE HARTER, biller, both of M-G-M's Buffalo exchange, are on leaves of absence.

•

ALBERT J. JEFFERY, United Artists Toronto branch manager, has returned to his headquarters, after a visit to Newfoundland.

•

CHARLES STEINBERG of Warners' home office educational bureau is in Washington.

•

BOB FOLLIARD, RKO district manager in Philadelphia, has recovered from an attack of influenza.

•

CHARLES HARTER of the Columbia Buffalo exchange left for Army service this week.

•

BERNARD LEVY, manager of Proven Pictures Theatre, Hartford, is in Boston on a business trip.

•

SAM SHAPIN, Warner traveling auditor, is on a tour of Canadian branches.

•

GARFIELD CASS, Toronto branch manager for Regal (M-G-M) Films, has enlisted in the Canadian Navy.

Sponsors Naval Vessel

Mrs. Joseph G. Feeney, the former Eileen O'Toole, daughter of M. J. O'Toole of Comerford Theatres, Scranton, Pa., recently sponsored the launching of a new Naval vessel at Consolidated Shipyards, Morris Heights, N. Y. Her husband, Lieut. Feeney, has received the Navy Cross for bravery in action aboard a U. S. merchant ship.

R. B. WILBY is in New York from Atlanta on WAC matters.

•

LARRY NEW, who managed the Grandview Theatre, Vancouver, B. C., before joining the Canadian Navy, has been transferred to the films section at Halifax, N. S.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warner's general sales manager, and JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division sales manager, left last night on a visit to Midwestern branches.

•

GEORGE DEMBOW, National Screen executive, will leave today for the Midwest as a "Flying Bondsman," substituting for HERMAN ROBBINS who is ill.

•

JAMES M. PRICE, manager for RCA in Cincinnati, has been conferring this week with company theatre equipment executives at the Camden, N. J., office.

•

FRED GELLE, Warner's home office transportation manager, will report for military service the latter part of this month.

•

SAMUEL ROSEN, Monogram exchange manager in Philadelphia, has gone to Atlantic City to recuperate from a recent illness.

•

JOSEPH BUSIC, in charge of theatre operations for United Detroit Theatres, under EARL HUDSON, is visiting in New York.

•

T. J. DONALDSON, M-G-M's Boston branch manager, is in town on company business.

•

NICHOLAS NAPOLI, president of Artkino Pictures, will return to New York today from Hollywood.

•

BILL STEPHENS, casting director for Republic, is enroute to New York on a talent hunt.

•

RICHARD CARROLL, Paramount booker in the New Haven exchange, is visiting here.

•

GEORGE MILLER, booker for the Bailey circuit, New Haven, has been inducted into the Army.

•

JACK BROWN, Paramount film salesman at New Haven, will leave for the Army Feb. 9.

•

J. R. VOGEL, Loew's vice-president, left last night for Chicago.

'Lady' Radio Promotion

Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" will get a Coast-to-Coast radio promotion on the eve of its world premiere at the Hollywood Paramount Theatre Feb. 9. Ginger Rogers, feminine star of the film, will be featured on the Bob Hope-Pepsodent program over NBC. A fashion preview in connection with the picture, will be held at the Women's Military Services Club here Feb. 13, with Arlene Francis as commentator.

Here's a Mayor Who Refuses Pass

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Local theatremen received a shock last week when the city's newly-elected mayor, Roger D. Lapham, shipping executive returned their proffered season passes with a "no thank you" note. For years it has been a custom here for theatres to present the mayor with courtesy passes—and not one was ever returned.

White of Skouras to Study FWC Methods

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 2.—William White, general manager for Skouras Theatres in the East arrived here today on a combination business-vacation trip. While here White will study the operations of the Fox West Coast Southern division with George Bowser, district supervisor, in order to adapt some of their methods to the Eastern Skouras group. White and Mrs. White will remain here for two weeks.

The Skouras Eastern group, principally around New York City, Long Island and Westchester, is independently operated by George Skouras, brother of Charles Skouras, head of National-Fox West Coast Theatres, and has no affiliation with the latter.

Services at Scranton For Mrs. M. J. Cary

SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 2.—Services were held here today at St. Peter's Cathedral for Mrs. Matthew J. Cary, sister of the late Michael E. Comerford, founder of the Comerford circuit and aunt of Postmaster General Frank Comerford Walker, who died at her home here last weekend. She had been a resident of Scranton for 50 years.

Beside her husband, who is superintendent of the circuit's real estate department, the late Mrs. Cary is survived by three sons, of whom Thomas of Waverly, N. Y., is district manager for Comerford.

Walker was here from Washington for the funeral. Interment was in the Comerford mausoleum, Plymouth, Pa.

Sniderman Honored By RKO Associates

Edward Sniderman, RKO Metropolitan Theatres division manager, who reports for Army induction at Camp Upton tomorrow, was given a luncheon by RKO associates at the Hotel Abbey here yesterday.

Among the 70 who attended were: Edward L. Alperson, Malcolm Kingsberg, H. Russell Emde, John A. Cassidy, Wilbur B. England, John Farmer, Louis Goldberg, Harry Mandel, Charles B. McDonald and Major L. E. Thompson.

Ruggles in London

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Wesley Ruggles announced here today that he will start work on Sir Alexander Korda's "Perfect Strangers" at Denham Studios, Feb. 15.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Kansas City Gives 'Gov't Girl' $22,000

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 2.—"Government Girl" is grossing approximately $22,000 at three Fox Midwest first-runs, the Esquire, Uptown and Fairway, to lead here this week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 2-3:

"Government Girl" (RKO)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $8,750. (Average: $5,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $14,000).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
"Victory Through Air Power" (UA-Disney)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week for "Princess O'Rourke." Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,000).
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
"So's Your Uncle" (Univ.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,400).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $5,600).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $1,450).

Chicago Operators Will Elect Today

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—Election of officers of the M. P. Operators' union, Local 110, will be held here tomorrow. The union is temporarily without leadership as the result of a rank-and-file revolt in December in which all officers were ousted for alleged conspiracy with the Capone gang to defraud members of $5,000,000 in wages. James F. Walsh, international president of the IATSE, will supervise the election.

Following have been placed in nomination: Peter Bridges, Glenn Sweeney, George LeRoy, James Gorman and Smith King, for president; Herman Posnier, Frank Galluzzo, Dallas Kephart, John Mulvaney, Everett Ryan and Edward Halliday, vice-president; Ora Bebb, Charles Hall and Clarence Jalas, secretary-treasurer; Herman Goldberg, Roy McCracken, Hugo Krause, Joe Britsk, Gene Atkinson and Harry Regan, business agent.

Altec Names Thomas Company Treasurer

P. F. Thomas has been elected treasurer of Altec Service Corp., succeeding H. M. Bessey, recently named vice-president.

Thomas, a graduate of Purdue University, has been with Altec since 1937. In 1942 he became branch manager here and in the same year was named general credit manager at the New York home office.

Julien Duvivier to Be Honored at Lunch

A luncheon honoring Julien Duvivier, director of Universal's "Flesh and Fantasy" and "The Imposter," forthcoming release, will be given by the company next Tuesday at the 21 Club here.

"The Imposter" will be screened for the guests at 3 p.m. that day in the Universal projection room.

Stoneman Buys a Hotel

David Stoneman, a director of Interstate Theatre Corp., Boston, and associates, have purchased the Mt. Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods N. H., for a reported $500,000.

"The Sullivans"

(Continued from page 1)

on the screen who will not respond to its powerfully nostalgic appeal. It re-creates the commonplace highlights of boyhood and young manhood with all of their innocent joys and dangers, the mischief of adolescence, the tragedy of misunderstandings, the tenderness and the anguish of first love. There is a clash between the father and the eldest son, who would have run away from home as a result of it, but the breach averted, there was instead the lesson taught that, as the father expressed it: "We Sullivans must stick together."

And so it was that the five brothers, the youngest of them married and a father with a son of his own, not only chose the Navy as their branch of service when they first learned of the Jap treachery at Pearl Harbor, but "stuck together" effectively enough to win assignment to the same ship, the *Juneau,* and on it died together.

A FLAWLESS screenplay has been evolved by Mary C. McCall, Jr., from the story of the Sullivan family by Edward Doherty and Jules Schermer. The production has been expertly cast down to the smallest bit part and performances are, almost without exception, examples of sustained inspiration.

Thomas Mitchell and Selena Royle are cast as Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, while the five grown sons are played by Edward Ryan, John Campbell, James Cardwell, John Alvin and George Offerman, Jr. Anne Baxter plays the part of the bride of the youngest son, and Trudy Marshall, the boys' sister. The roles of the brothers and sister as children are played by Bobby Driscoll, Marvin Davis, Buddy Swan, Billy Cummings, Johnny Calkins and Nancy June Robinson. Roy Roberts plays a parish priest; Ward Bond a Naval recruiting officer, and others in the cast include: John Nesbitt, Selmer Jackson, Harry Shannon, Barbara Brown, Larry Thompson and Addison Richards.

Robert T. Kane was associate producer. Technical departments are in keeping with the exceptional quality of the film as a whole.

"THE SULLIVANS," with its great human appeal, is unquestionably destined for exceptional grosses and extended playing time. It is a picture that reflects credit on the entire production community, that wins new friends and increased respect for the industry itself. As one large circuit operator said to his companion following its screening in a New York projection room recently: "You can stand in your lobby with your head up while you're playing that one."

Amen, brother.

Running time, 111 minutes. "G."* Release, in February block.

SHERWIN KANE

*"G" denotes general classification.

Fourth N. H. Theatre Fire Razes Nugget

BOSTON, Feb. 2.—The fourth New Hampshire theatre to be put out of commission by fire within the past few weeks was the Nugget at Hanover, which burned to the ground this week. The other fires were at Groveton, Whitefield and Enfield.

The Nugget was owned by the town of Hanover and was operated by W. O. Barwood, who also operates a film delivery from New Hampshire to Boston.

Suicide Verdict in Kaimann's Death

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 2.—A suicide verdict has been returned by a coroner's jury in the death of William Kaimann, 52, vice-president of Kaimann Brothers, Inc., theatre circuit, who shot himself last Wednesday night after shooting and critically wounding his brother Clarence, 51, the president, in a quarrel over the management of the business.

Cohen Leaves M-G-M

Charles Cohen, M-G-M trade press contact, has resigned from the home office publicity department, effective tomorrow, and will announce a new connection shortly. Prior to joining M-G-M, Cohen wrote feature stories, radio dramatizations and fictionizations.

$1,500,000 Cut From FCC Radio Budget

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The Federal Communications Commission's funds for the next fiscal year have been cut $1,500,000 by the House, which cut $1,000,000 from the FCC's funds for radio intelligence division on the ground that this activity could be better performed by the War and Navy departments, and $500,000 from the FCC's foreign broadcast intelligence service.

Unless the Senate insists upon reinserting the funds when it takes up the $8,500,000,000 independent offices appropriation bill, it is claimed here that the House action marks a clear victory for foes of the FCC.

Nizer Records Available

Records of film attorney Louis Nizer's 4th War Loan Drive bond appeal with introductions by George Putnam, newscaster, are now available through Harry Mandel of RKO Theatres here. The record is intended for theatre audiences in connection with bond rallies.

Clark's Father Passes

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 2.—P. J. Clark, 86, father of Albert Clark, manager of the Fay Majestic, died at his home here this week. The elder Clark was New England manager for Standard Oil.

Columbia Plans to Increase Feature Totals Next Season

(Continued from page 1)

The numerical release trend with most other companies has been to lower totals.

"More percentage pictures are contemplated in more situations than ever before," Montague said in discussing future selling policies. Columbia plans no immediate change in selling policies, Montague said in discounting any possibility that the company might turn to decree selling methods for 1944-45.

14 Westerns Next Season

The 10 Westerns to be released this year will be increased to 14 in 1944-45 as presently contemplated, according to Montague. Four special Westerns are planned for next season in place of the two this year, he said. "Two specials sold separately this year, after screening, will be increased to four next year," Montague added.

The current sales conferences in New York which are being attended by all branch and division managers except those in the West, as well as by home office sales personnel, were called to plan selling campaigns for "Cover Girl," "None Shall Escape," "Curly" and "Address Unknown," besides discussing post-war plans. Montague revealed that Columbia sales personnel in the field is being instructed to contact exhibitors and local boards of trade on possible post-war problems.

"Columbia will adjust film rentals where warranted and will even give an exhibitor films and carry him," Montague declared.

Columbia Field Men Attend

In addition to Columbia home office executives attending the convention, as listed in MOTION PICTURE DAILY Tuesday, the following from the field are here for the sessions:

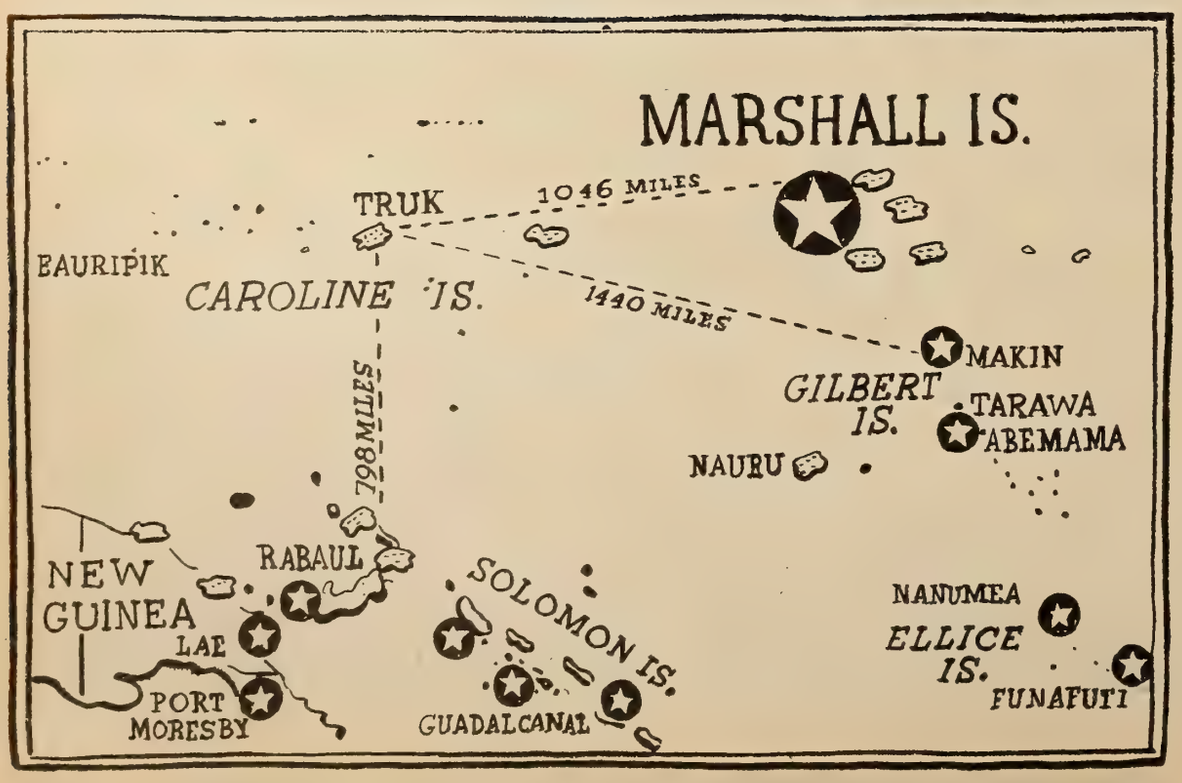
Southern division manager Sam Moscow, Atlanta; branch managers Bob Ingram, Atlanta; Joe Gins, Charlotte; Jack Underwood, Dallas; Jimmy Rogers, Memphis; Dewey Gibbs, Oklahoma City; Huston Duvall, New Orleans. Central division manager Carl Shalit, Detroit; branch managers Guy Craig, Indianapolis; Ben Marcus, Kansas City; Clarence Hill, St. Louis. Mid-Eastern division manager Sam Galanty, Washington; branch managers Allan Moritz, Cincinnati; Lester Zucker, Cleveland; Art Levy, Pittsburgh; Ben Caplon, Washington.

Also: New York division manager Nat Cohn, New York; branch managers Irving Wormser and Sol Trauner, New York; Joe Miller, Albany; Harry Rogovin, Boston; Phil Fox, Buffalo; Tom O'Toole, New Haven; Harry Weiner, Philadelphia, Pa. Also: Ben Lourie, Chicago; Mel Evidon, Des Moines; Oscar Ruby, Milwaukee; Hy Chapman, Minneapolis; Joe Jacobs, Omaha. From Canada: Lou Rosenfeld, general manager of Canada, and Herbert Allen.

Boston Houses Now Safe

BOSTON, Feb. 2. — All local film theatres have now met requirements of the Public Safety Commission here with regard to regulation exits and proper structure, following several citations.

DESTI
TOI



CARY GRANT
JOHN GARFIE

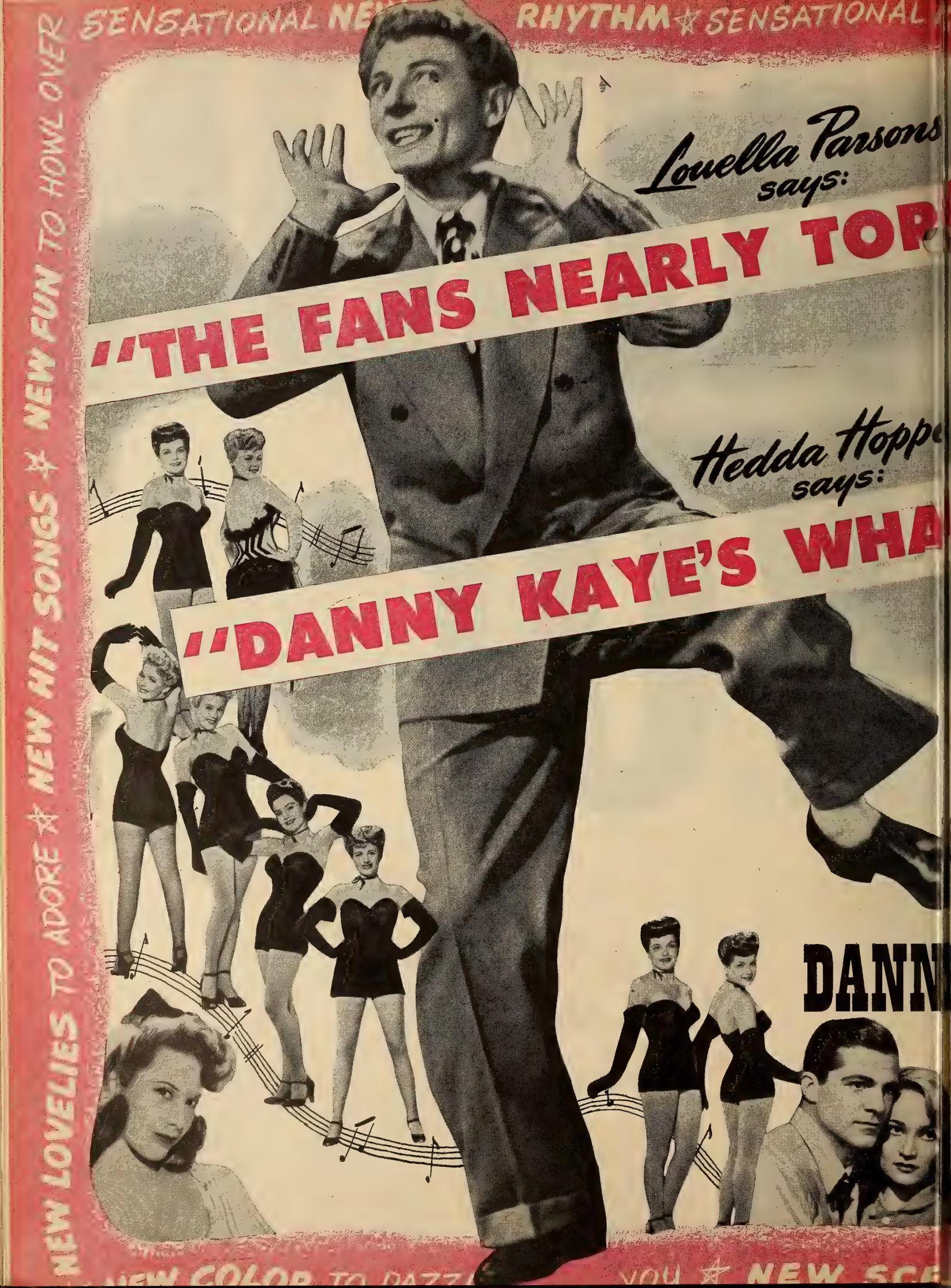
IATION

YO!

TWO WARNER WORDS
THAT MEAN MORE EVERY DAY!

DESTINATION TOKYO"

with DANE CLARK · ROBERT HUTTON · WARNER ANDERSON
ALAN HALE · JOHN RIDGELY · WILLIAM PRINCE


SENSATIONAL NE
RHYTHM ☆ SENSATIONAL
Louella Parsons says:
"THE FANS NEARLY TOR
Hedda Hoppe says:
"DANNY KAYE'S WHA
DANN
NEW LOVELIES TO ADORE ☆ NEW HIT SONGS ☆ NEW FUN TO HOWL OVER
NEW COLOR TO DAZZ
YOU ☆ NEW SCE

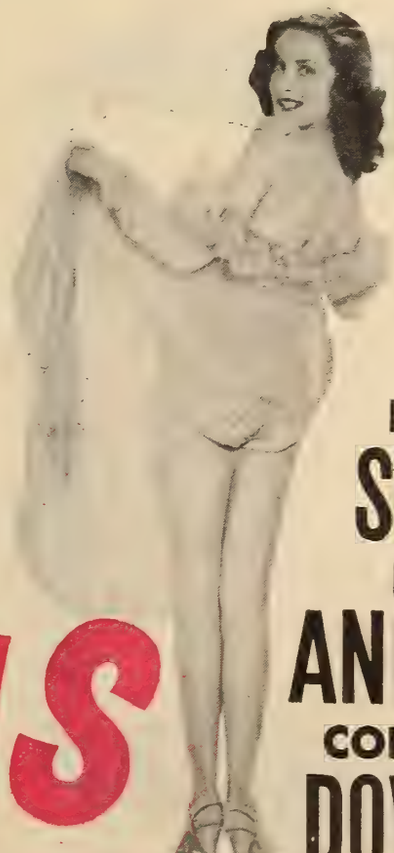
COLOR ☆ SENSATIONAL NEW LOVELIES ☆ SENSATIONAL

THE THEATRE DOWN!"

"When Danny Kaye first appeared on the screen, when 'Up In Arms' was projected, he was a new personality, a new face—unfamiliar to the fans . . . By the time the preview audience became familiar with him the applause was deafening and the fans nearly tore the theatre down. Samuel Goldwyn has a definite find in Danny Kaye."

CALL SENSATIONAL!"

"Danny Kaye's a whole blitzkrieg. So much talent it almost scared you . . . The preview audience clapped, screamed and yelled. It's by far the best thing Dinah Shore's ever done . . . Constance Dowling is clever, attractive. The Goldwyn Beauties are just that . . . But it's Danny Kaye's romp."



SAMUEL GOLDWYN

presents

KAYE

UP IN ARMS

DINAH SHORE

DANA ANDREWS

CONSTANCE DOWLING

PLUS THE GOLDWYN GIRLS

Released through RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.

irected by Elliott Nugent · Associate Producer Don Hartman

Original Screen Play by Don Hartman, Allen Boretz and Robert Pirosh

IN TECHNICOLOR

NEW STAR ☆ SENSATIONAL NEW LAUGHS ☆ NEW STAR TO GO FOR

TO REMEMBER ☆ NEW

Allied Adopts Poll On Taxation Council

(Continued from page 1)

of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, assisted by Harry Lowenstein, president of the board of Allied Theatres of New Jersey; and Maxwell Alderman.

The national exhibition tax defense plan calls for the designation of three representatives from each exhibitor classification—Allied States, the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America and unaffiliated exhibitor organizations and affiliated theatres. The aim is to prevent the groups from taking inconsistent and conflicting positions with regard to future national tax bills.

Following today's meeting Abram Myers, Allied general counsel, announced that the Consent Decree Committee, consisting of Col. H. A. Cole, W. F. Crockett, Jessie Stern, Robert Poole and himself, will arrive in Washington Monday to confer with Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark preparatory to presenting to him on Wednesday the independent exhibitors' brief with regard to the decree draft drawn up by the five major distributing companies.

Myers reiterated that the views of the group on the decree proposal will not be made public prior to the Washington meeting. He explained that no statement of either a formal or official nature has been made concerning decree views developed at the meeting.

Tomorrow's session will be devoted to discussing the Caravan Committee and to the election of officers.

175,000 in Bond Drive, Skouras Informs Gamble

(Continued from page 1)

that the workers are connected with 16,900 theatres, as well as the Hollywood studios and all distribution divisions.

Skouras, who on Tuesday bought an "E" bond from each of the 230 houses in Fox West Coast Theatres, has now expanded his buying to all 600 units of National Theatres Corp. (of which he is president). The latter has itself invested $6,000,000 in 4th Loan bonds, and its parent, 20th-Fox, has bought an equal amount. Of the 20th-Fox figure, $100,000 has been allocated to the Roxy Theatre, $3,100,000 to the home office, $1,250,000 to the studio, and $50,000 to each of the 31 sales branches throughout the country.

National Theatres' purchase is broken down as follows: New York, $2,000,000; Fox Michigan Theatres, $100,000; Fox Wisconsin Theatres, $100,000; Fox West Coast Theatres, $2,400,000; Evergreen State Theatres, $500,000; Fox-Midwest, $500,000, and Fox Intermountain, $400,000.

Publicists Guests of Skouras at Luncheon

Advertising and publicity directors of distributors and the National Screen Service, who helped in the advertisements for the special Fourth War Loan editions of the trade press, were guests of Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry drive, at a luncheon yesterday at the 21 Club. Among those present were: Si F. Seadler, Arthur DeBra, Glendon Allvine, Harry Goldberg, Robert Gillham, Alec Moss, Hank Linet, Frank P. Rosenberg, Stanley Shuford, Hal Horne, Charles Schlaifer, S. Barret McCormack, Ernest Emerling, Gilbert Golden, John Krimsky, Lou Pollock, Lou Gaudreau, Howard Schlitt, Charles Reed Jones, Don Velde, Leo Abrams, Frank H. Ricketson, Jr., B. V. Sturdivant, Robert Selig, Seymour Peiser, Andy Krappmann, Sam Shain, Morris Kinzler, Bernie Hynes and Earl Wingart.

Loew Employes Pledge $225,000 for 4th Loan

Over $225,000 in 4th War Loan bond purchases were pledged by home office employes of Loew's, Inc., M-G-M and Loew's station WHN, at a rally here yesterday. This tops the $211,870 figure pledged in the 3rd Loan. Company is financing the purchase of extra bonds, allowing employes up to one year to pay through increased payroll deductions.

Forty $25 bonds contributed by Loew's, Inc., were raffled, each employe buying an extra bond being given a "lucky number" ticket. Jimmy Durante, Phyllis Brooks and Lee Bowman appeared at the rally. Appeals were made by John T. Madden, personnel director of Loew's; Edward C. Bowden, Ernest Emerling, and a representative of the War Finance Division of the Treasury Department.



'Acquaintance' Hits $15,300 in Toronto

TORONTO, Feb. 2.—"Old Acquaintance" looked like $15,300 at Shea's Theatre here on the strength of female patronage. "Guadalcanal Diary" pointed to $13,100 at the Imperial while "In Old Oklahoma," first Western to have a first-run engagement here in months, showed signs of grossing $12,700 at the Uptown.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 3:

"Intermezzo" (Alliance)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $5,400. (Average: $3,900).
"Guadalcanal Diary" (20th-Fox)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $13,100. (Average: $12,600).
"Jack London" (UA)
"The Man from Down Under" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $11,800. (Average: $10,800).
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $12,300).
"Intermezzo" (Alliance)
"Chance of a Lifetime" (Col.)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $5,600. (Average: $4,600).
"In Old Oklahoma" (Rep.)
"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,700. (Average: $9,700).

Carneal with Paramount

Georgette Carneal, feature editor of Esquire magazine, has been appointed assistant story editor of Paramount under Richard L. Mealand, Eastern story editor, to start duties Feb. 14, succeeding Helen Strauss, it was announced yesterday by Russell Holman, Eastern head of production.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 153 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

JOHN R. SHIELDS, Capitol Theatre, Ansonia, Conn.
EARL M. FAIN, Palace Theatre, Leesburg, Fla.
LOUIS FLAMM, Odeon Theatre, Beaver Dam, Wis.
MARGARET SHEPPARD, Crossett Theatre, Crossett, Ark.
R. C. GENTRY, Ritz Theatre, Baldwin, Miss.
KEN PETERS, State Theatre, Pierre, S. D.
FRED PERRY, Olympic Theatre, Watertown, N. Y.
LEO BENNIS, Lincoln Theatre, Lincoln, Ill.
BEN GREENBERG, Stadium Theatre, Woonsocket, R. I.
DICK MILLER, Wilson Theatre, Arlington, Va.
F. G. HALLOWELL, Dickinson Theatre, Dickinson, N. D.
GEORGE FRANTZ, Gothic Theatre, Englewood, Cal.
ELTON L. BENSON; Rex Theatre, Albion, Neb.
HENRY T. STAFFORD, Imperial Theatre, Griffin, Ga.
LLOYD FRANKLIN, Sunshine Theatre, Clovis, N. M.
BRECK FAGIN, Orpheum Theatre, Twin Falls, Ida.

Army Gets 10,000th Gift 16mm Program

(Continued from page 1)

leaders at a ceremony held here yesterday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee, made the presentation. Gen. Somervell was also presented with prints of 10 current films, formally inaugurating the second 10,000-print gift from the industry.

These 10 films, four of which have just been released here, and several of which will not be seen by American audiences for some time, were immediately shipped overseas by plane.

Symbolize Industry's Promise

In presenting the films Schaefer stated they symbolized a continuation of the industry's promise to furnish a constant stream of new pictures for soldiers overseas until the war is won. Gen. Somervell, in accepting, said:

"On behalf of all American troops on fighting fronts all over the world, I am happy to express to you the appreciation of the Army for the many fine contributions made by the motion picture industry."

Industry representatives present included: Barney Balaban, N. Peter Rathvon, W. C. Michel, Y. Frank Freeman, Francis S. Harmon, S. H. Fabian, Arthur Mayer, Herman Gluckman and J. Robert Rubin.

Representing the Army at the luncheon, in addition to Gen. Somervell, were: Major General W. D. Styer; Col. Kirke B. Lawton; Col. R. C. Barrett, and Major John W. Hubbell. Players present were: Fredric March, Phyllis Brooks, Ralph Bellamy, Anne Baxter, Maria Montez, Vera Zorina, June Allyson and Nancy Walker.

Balaban, Agnew to Open Para. Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

dress. G. B. J. Frawley will call the roll. In prelude, delegates will attend a screening of "Lady in the Dark" tonight.

The selling approach of "Lady in the Dark" to the public will be discussed by Robert Gillham, advertising-publicity director; Alec Moss, exploitation manager; Al Wilkie, publicity manager, and Stanley Shuford, advertising manager. Agnew will outline sales policy. A discussion of sales progress and further plans on "For Whom the Bell Tolls" will be conducted by Charles M. Reagan, assistant general sales manager. Agnew and Fred LeRoy of the sales department will discuss sales matters.

Scollard to Address Managers

A special session for district managers will be addressed by C. J. Scollard on labor relations; Louis Phillips of the legal staff, on trade practices; Henry Anderson on insurance; Joseph A. Walsh on exchange operations and Reagan on personnel problems. At the same time, a separate meeting for exploitation men will be under way, with Gillham, Moss, Wilkie and Shuford participating. The field men will also view Cecil B. DeMille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell." Sales plans on this will be outlined by Agnew, and Gillham will discuss advertising plans. Other speakers will be Freeman and Oscar A. Morgan, sales manager of shorts.

George A. Smith, Western, and Hugh Owen, Eastern division managers, respectively, will address a district managers' session, while advertising representatives will meet with Gillham and Moss on cooperative advertising. Sunday will be devoted to individual meetings between division and district managers. The delegates will leave for the field that evening.

District Men Attending

Attending besides those mentioned, will be district managers William Erbb, M. S. Kusell, E. W. Sweigert, M. R. Clark, Allen Usher, R. C. LiBeau, H. W. Braly, J. F. Kirby, J J. Donohue, Del Goodman and Gordon Lightstone.

District advertising representatives will include: Arnold Van Leer, William Brooker, Vernon Gray, M. D Cohn, J. M. Joice, Ed Wall, E. G Fitzgibbon, James Levine, Win Barron, Allan Glenn, Charles C. Perry and Sid Mesibov.

Other home office executives present will be F. A. LeRoy, H. J. Lorber, A. J. Dunne, Jack Roper and Sam Palmer.

WMC Hearing Set On Exchange Status

(Continued from page 1)

result in local draft boards giving greater consideration to exchange employes in requests for deferments.

Leon Bamberger, RKO, attached to the WMC in New York, will be present at the hearing as representative for the distributors, in addition to representatives for the local exchange employe groups and labor unions. It is believed that the hearing will set a precedent for the industry.

Rank Enlists KRS and CEA In Bid for World Markets

(Continued from page 1)

pressed by Simpson's and Baker's endeavors for the achievement of a joint conciliation committee seeking to end exhibitor-distributor wrangling. A further step, however, is deemed imperative in view of the threat of possibly objectionable legislation. Also paramount is the necessity of maintaining the prestige of British production.

The proposal undoubtedly will provoke opposition by certain sections of the CEA, which, if not in the majority, are exceedingly vocal. It is conceded that it may also meet with resistance from American interests and KRS.

Virtually a Demand

Rank's status, however, implies to the trade here that the proposal is virtually a demand, particularly in view of his pronouncement that the present internecine quarrelling is discreditable to the industry.

Speedy KRS and CEA meetings are being arranged to act upon the proposals and already assured is agreement by certain producers. Rank and Simpson, by their expression of sympathy for the independent small-town exhibitor threatened with extinction by the reckless speculative builder, enlisted the support of this section of the trade. Rank pledged himself to support legislation favoring regulation of future building in his suggested council, thereby assuring himself of the overwhelming support of small exhibition.

Trade Board Investigated

With reference to Rank's fight against governmental control of the British film industry, MOTION PICTURE DAILY (in a London story) reported that the British Board of Trade's film council, alarmed at Rank's expanding activities, had appointed four of its members to "investigate measures necessary to counteract the danger of a film trade monopoly." Named to the investigation committee were Albert Palache, Sir Walter Citrine, Philip Guadella and Professor Albert Arnold Plant. The group was named by Dr. Hugh Dalton, president of the Board of Trade, who, it is understood, acted upon pressure brought to bear by labor groups within the industry and by industry interests opposed by Rank.

Rank Representative Hopeful Of U. S. Distribution Deal

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—While expressing confidence that arrangements for American distribution of J. Arthur Rank films eventually will be established, Barrington Gain, Rank's emissary visiting here from London, had no concrete developments to report in this direction today as a result of his Hollywood sojourn. Gain is scheduled to leave for New York Friday.

"We will undoubtedly complete distribution arrangements," Gain told MOTION PICTURE DAILY. "However, he added, "there are difficulties to overcome, especially those arising from the war and from manpower and other shortages."

No Definite Arrangements

Gain said that he has discussed the Rank-U. S. project with virtually all major companies here, but emphatically stated no definite arrangements had been concluded. "Final arrangements will have to be completed in New York," he said. "We have several films already in this country ready for immediate distribution but we shall not sell them here piecemeal as in the past. We want to assure American exhibitors of a steady continuity of product. The first year would entail distribution of not more than 12 features as things stand now," Gain added.

Gain did not discuss possible cooperative arrangements between Rank and American producer-distributors for distrbution of films in liberated countries, although Dr. Alexander Galperson, another Rank representative visiting here, has been conferring with stars, directors and producers on the London production of films for French distribution under sponsorship of the French Committee of Liberation. It was learned that he has talked with Julien Duvivier, Charles Boyer, Jean Gabin, Simone Simon and others, in connection with Rank's plan to establish a French market after the war. Galperson entrained Monday for New York.

Omaha Gives Lovely $10,600 to 'Love'

OMAHA, Feb. 2.—"No Time for Love" netted $10,600 at the Paramount Theatre here this week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 2-3:

"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
"The Chance of a Lifetime" (Col.)
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,900. (Average: $5,500).
"In Old Chicago" (20th-Fox)
"Banjo on My Knees" (20th-Fox)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $8,100. (Average: $6,900).
"The Man from Down Under" (M-G-M)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. George Olsen and his orchestra on the stage. Gross: $13,900. (Average: $14,900).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,600. (Average: $9,800).

'Jeannie' to Levine

BOSTON, Feb. 2.—Joe Levine of Embassy Pictures here has secured New England distribution of Tansa-General's "Jeannie," made in England.

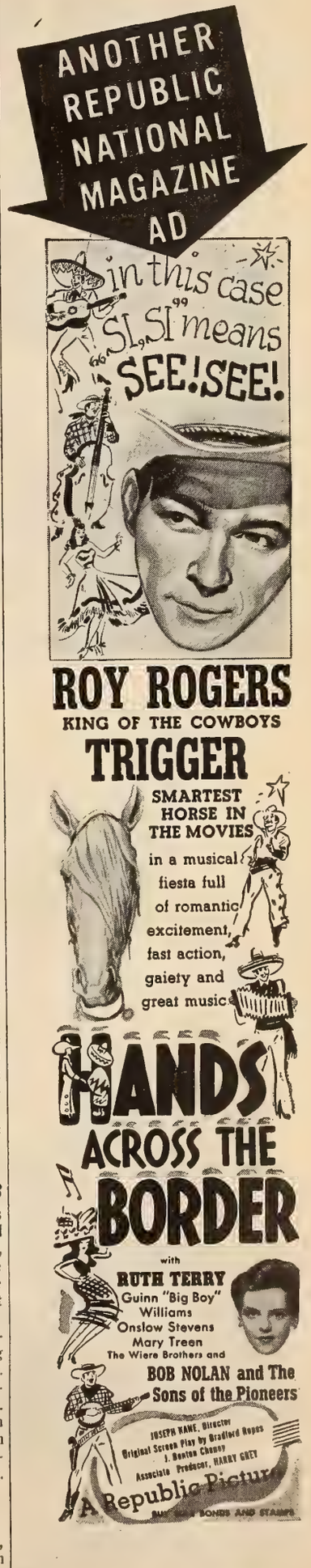
Rhoden Switches 3 District Managers

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 2.—Promotions in Fox-Midwest Theatres announced by Elmer Rhoden, division manager, puts Ed Haas, who has been with the organization since it started, in charge of District No. 2, one of the largest of the circuit.

Haas had managed theatres in Kansas for Fox Midwest before becoming manager of District 5 seven years ago. Promoted to the managership of District 5, succeeding Haas, is James J. Long, 10 years with the company in St. Louis and Kansas City. Senn Lawler is given the leadership of Kansas City District 1, succeeding Long.

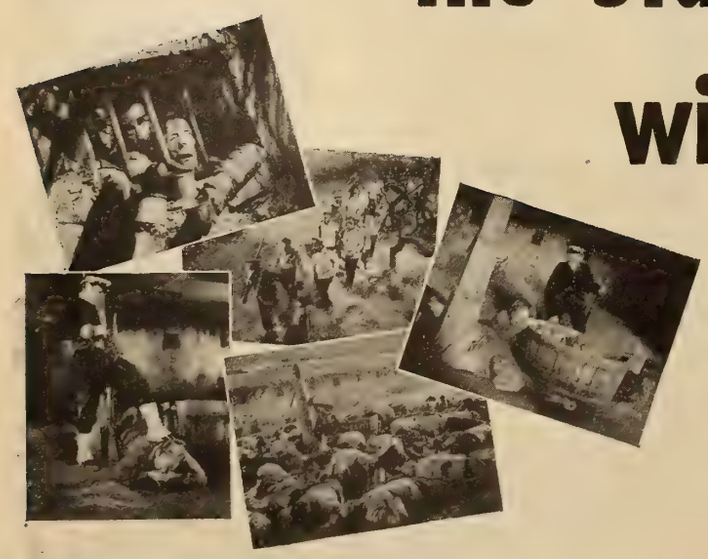
Smith to Monogram

DENVER, Feb. 2. — Henry Smith, Paramount salesman in the Mountain territory, has joined the Monogram office here, under Lon Fidler.



"JACK LONDON"
HEADLINE-HOT
RIGHT NOW!

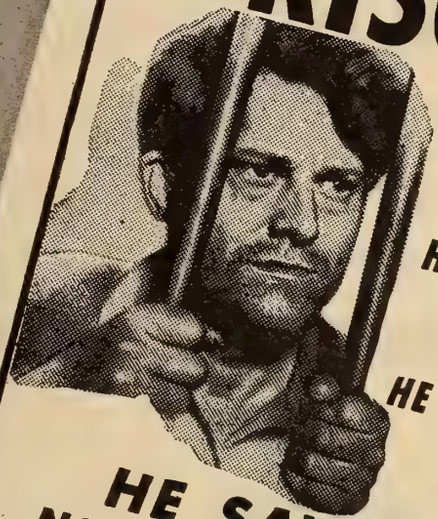
This is the ad that's cramming the Stanton, Philadelphia, with smash business *right now!*



These lobby stills are packin' 'em in... *right now!*

THE TRUE REPORT OF THE

FIRST AMERICAN PRISONER OF THE JAPS

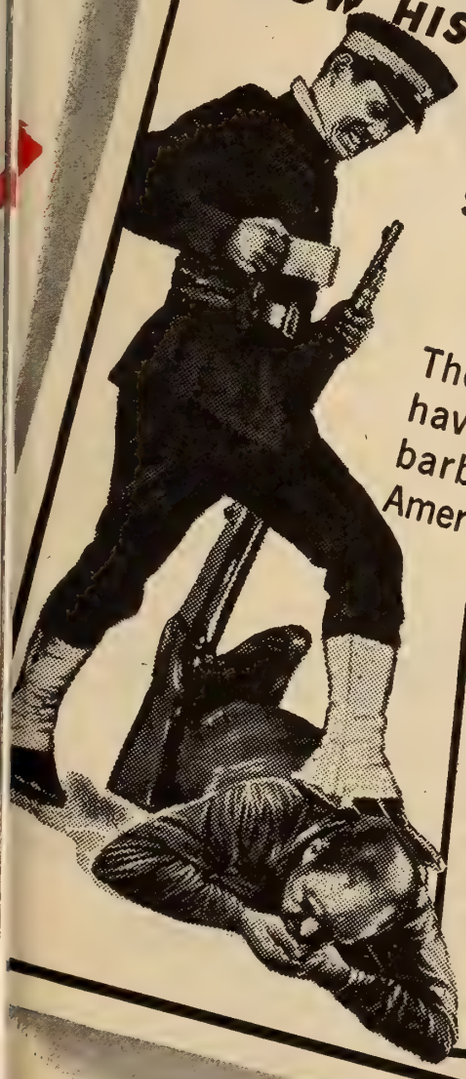


HE SAW PRISONERS OF WAR... MACHINE GUNNED FOR TRYING TO REACH A CUP OF WATER!

HE SAW PRISONERS CHAINED AND MARCHED BAREHEADED IN THE SUN!

HE SPENT MONTHS IN THE REEKING PRISON OF THE JAPS!

HE SAW TERRIBLE THINGS! NOW HIS SECRET PAPERS ARE REVEALED



NOW EVERYTHING YOU WILL SEE ON THE SCREEN IS EXPOSED

AS TRUE!

These sons of Nippon haven't changed their barbaric treatment of American war-prisoners!

JOSEPH C. GREW

U. S. Ambassador to Japan at the time of Pearl Harbor, says: "Jack London was a prophet crying in the wilderness as many of us have been. A most interesting film!"

SAMUEL BRONSTON presents

Michael O'SHEA • Susan HAYWARD

in

Jack London

with

OSA MASSEN • HARRY DAVENPORT • FRANK CRAVEN
VIRGINIA MAYO • RALPH MORGAN • LOUISE BEAVERS

Screenplay by ERNEST PASCAL • Directed by ALFRED SANTELL

A SAMUEL BRONSTON Production • Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

Date it at UNITED ARTISTS *Right Now!*

"You want to laugh? Go to the N.Y. Paramount ...If you don't laugh at 'The Miracle of Morgan's Creek,' it can only be because you're both deaf and blind. They could run this Preston Sturges picture as a silent, or simply give you the sound track. It would be hilarious in either case."

—G. E. BLACKFORD, N.Y. JOURNAL-AMERICAN



"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"

Starring
EDDIE BRACKEN
BETTY HUTTON
with Diana Lynn • William Demarest
Porter Hall and "McGinty" and "The Boss"
Written and Directed by
PRESTON STURGES

THIS Paramount HIT SCORED BIGGEST NON-HOLIDAY SATURDAY IN N. Y. PARAMOUNT'S 18-YEAR HISTORY!

FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 25 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1944 TEN CENTS

Theatre Repair Needs Serious, U. S. Reveals

Chairs, Carpets, Lights, Batteries Badly Needed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Investigation of motion picture theatres in the United States by the Office of Civilian Requirements shows that they are rapidly deteriorating under the present heavy patronage and lack of repair and replacements, and it is now necessary to take steps to insure their continued operation.

With practically every theatre in the country in urgent need of opera chairs for replacement, John Eberson, consultant to the amusement section of the OCR, is negotiating with War Production Board officials for a relaxation of the present prohibition on chair manufacture.

Replies of 13,244 theatres to an OCR questionnaire, asking for information as to their material needs over a 12-month period, showed that chairs, carpets, light bulbs, batteries, fire extinguishers and, importantly,

(*Continued on page* 16)

Chi Union Elects With One Casualty

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Eugene Atkinson, State Lake projectionist for 24 years, won the office of business manager of the Chicago Operators Union, Local 110, in today's election, with James Gorman of the Panthenon Theatre chosen president; Frank Galluzzo, Drake Theatre, vice president, and Ora D. Bebb, Highland

(*Continued on page* 16)

'U' Signs Durbin For 6 More Years

The signing of Deanna Durbin to a new six-year contract was announced here yesterday by Universal, at the completion of her first seven years with the company.

The new contract was negotiated through Clarence D. Heckman, Miss Durbin's business manager, and Elmer P. Bromley, her attorney, and was signed as she was completing her 14th picture, "Christmas Holiday," under the guidance of producer Felix Jackson.

Smith Heads Allied; Myers Renamed Board Chairman

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Martin G. Smith, treasurer, was elected president of Allied States Association by the board of directors at its concluding session here today, succeeding M. A. Rosenberg; Abram F. Myers was reelected chairman and general counsel; William L. Ainsworth, executive committee member, was elected treasurer, succeeding Smith; Roy E. Harrold was named secretary, succeeding Meyer Leventhal, and P. J. Wood was returned as recording secretary.



Martin Smith

Executive committee members re-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Says Rank Invading U. S. Regardless

"The British industry, especially that portion controlled by J. Arthur Rank, is determined to establish an American market for its product on the basis of 'friendly competition' even if it takes years," Paul Soskin, English producer, and an organizer of the new Rank controlled Independent Producers, Ltd., stated during an interview here yesterday. Soskin arrived early this week from London

(*Continued on page* 16)

I. M. Lesser Succeeds Partington at Roxy

Irving M. Lesser has been named to succeed the late J. A. Partington as associate general manager of the Roxy Theatre, A. J. Balaban, general manager, announced here yesterday. The Roxy's production staff of Gae Foster, Arthur Knorr and the talent and artists' bureau under the supervision of Sam Rauch of Fanchon and Marco, Inc., will remain the same, Balaban said.

At the same time Harry C. Arthur, Jr., Fanchon and Marco executive, announced that Mrs. Inger Partington will succeed to her husband's interests in Fanchon and Marco. The announcement also said that J. A. Partington, Jr., now a staff sergeant in the Army, will join F. & M. upon demobilization.

Classification Wage Rises Sought for 3,000 in Exchanges

Negotiations are under way here between representatives of the eight major companies and Joseph D. Basson, assistant to IATSE president Joseph F. Walsh, covering some 3,000 "front-office" white collarites in the 31 film exchanges of each of these companies throughout the company, for the establishment of job classifications which would lead to wage increases. The only exchanges not involved are those of Columbia, 20th Century-Fox, M-G-M and United Ar-

(*Continued on page* 16)

'Flying Bondsmen' Meeting in Field

Additional mid-campaign meetings between the "flying bondsmen" representatives of Charles P. Skouras, industry national chairman of the 4th War Loan, and state war bond leaders were reported here yesterday, including the following: two conferences held Wednesday by Robert Mochrie in Wilmington and Baltimore, followed by meetings yesterday in Washington and Richmond; an area bond leaders meeting in Chicago yesterday with Joe Vogel; George Dembow's scheduled meeting today in Des Moines with state bond officials and tomorrow with other bond leaders in Omaha, and on Monday in Kansas City and St. Louis.

First of the Southern mid-campaig

(*Continued on page* 6)

Gamble Will Speak At Skouras Tribute

Ted R. Gamble, national director of the Treasury's War Finance Division, will be one of the speakers at the luncheon on Monday, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, which will honor Charles P. Skouras, national industry chairman of the 4th War Loan drive. The luncheon is being sponsored by New York and New Jersey exhibitors.

Other speakers will include Edward L. Alperson, general manager of RKO Theatres; Si Fabian, Fabian Theatres; Harry Brandt, luncheon committee chairman, and Skouras.

Plans Product Shortage Aid, Income Spread

Harry Arthur Tells Aims Of New Company

Formation of Exhibitors Distributing Corp., the new company planned by Harry C. Arthur and associates to be patterned along the lines of the original First National company, has the dual objective of meeting the present day requirements of both exhibitors and talent, Arthur told MOTION PICTURE DAILY in an interview here yesterday.

Arthur described as the first objective the theatres' need of additional top grade product to offset the shortage created by fewer releases from some leading companies, and a new sales formula for such product. The second objective, he said, is the establishment of deals which will spread the earnings of all classifications of talent over extended periods of time, rather than concentrating large earnings in limited periods.

The veteran theatre operator voiced

(*Continued on page* 6)

Marcus Promoted to Sales Supervisor

Ben Marcus, Columbia's Kansas City branch manager, has been promoted to district supervisor of the Midwest division which was formerly part of the late Phil Dunas' territory, it was announced yesterday at Columbia's sales meeting in the Hotel Warwick here.

Other promotions include the shift-

(*Continued on page* 16)

Texas Houses Get 1,800% More Dimes

Robert J. O'Donnell, Texas March of Dimes chairman, reports collections in theatres of that state will exceed $200,000, 1,800 per cent over 1943's $11,000 and three times O'Donnell's pre-drive prediction of $80,000.

Additional remittances have boosted Loew's Theatres' total from $425,000 to $436,000. Exhibitors report to the industry's "Dimes" committee here that children were among the leading contributors to this year's campaign.

Personal Mention

HARRY SHERMAN, independent producer, is in town from Hollywood.

•

GEORGE ARCHIBALD, head of the films division of the British Ministry of Information in New York, will leave for Montreal Monday en route back to London for a new assignment.

•

E. T. GOMERSALL, Universal's assistant general sales manager, is in Albany today.

•

ZAC FREEDMAN, publicist, has returned to New York from Hollywood.

•

AUGUST SERRANTOS, manager of the Ohio Theatre, Oakland City, Ind., has been inducted into the Army.

•

FRED SAMMIS, editorial director of *Photoplay* magazine, will leave today for Hollywood.

•

DAVID ROSE, British managing director for Paramount, arrived here yesterday from the Coast.

•

ED MOREY, Monogram executive, will leave here today for Chicago.

Ryan on L. & J. Case; Trial Starts March 6

George Ryan, Boston attorney, has been retained by Fred Weis, operator of the Savannah Theatre, Savannah, Ga., in his $218,000 damage suit now pending in Atlanta Federal Court against Lucas and Jenkins and the eight major companies.

Ryan will seek depositions from executives of the distributors and will work in conjunction with John I. Kelley, Atlanta attorney, for Weis. Trial is scheduled to start on Mar. 6.

Weis alleges unfair practices by Lucas and Jenkins which made it necessary for him to abandon a theatre building project in Savannah.

Monogram Meeting In Chicago Today

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Monogram will hold a two-day sales conference of franchise holders, exchange managers and salesmen here tomorrow and Saturday, presided over by Steve Broidy, general sales manager, at which the company's "Fifty Years of Service" sales drive, honoring W. Ray Johnston and Broidy, will be discussed.

In New York, Johnston will preside at meetings, Feb. 12-13, at which home office executives and Eastern exchange heads will be present.

No CFI Recapitalization

Consolidated Film Industries here yesterday denied reports in financial quarters that it has under consideration a plan of recapitalization which contemplates the payment or discharge of dividend arrearages on preferred stock.

Cites Equipment Control by Cartel

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3. — A 1930 agreement between American Telephone and Telegraph, RCA, three German electrical manufacturers and a Dutch company, for division of major world markets in motion picture studio recording and theatre reproducing apparatus was cited tonight by the Senate Military Affairs Subcommittee on War Mobilization as an example of one means by which cartels control international trade.

The agreement was outlined in a study of economic and political aspects of international cartels prepared by Corwin D. Edwards, chairman of the policy board of the Department of Justice anti-trust division.

Under it, Edwards said, the German companies were made exclusive agents of the American firms throughout the greater part of Europe and the Dutch East Indies, while the American companies were exclusive agents for the Germans in the U. S. and Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, the Straits Settlements and Russia and, for reproducing apparatus, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Similar Set-up on Radio

Similar agreements existed on radio equipment, one agreement, entered into in 1925 by International Co., N. V. Phillips, Gloeilampenfabrieken and N. V. Philips Radio, being still in effect at the outbreak of the war in 1939.

The hundreds of cartels in which German firms were interested, the study disclosed, not only benefited German industry but also the German state, aiding German rearmament and propaganda and, in some instances, the securing of military information by Germany after the outbreak of World War II.

$102,000 for 'Creek'; 'Lady' Opening Off

Almost 4,000 more admissions were registered by "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" at the Paramount Theatre here on its second week than the first, to set an all-time non-holiday second week record for the house. There were 151,217 admissions as compared to 147,333 in the first week. Gross for the second week was $102,000, against $100,000.

The run of "Morgan's Creek" has been extended to five weeks, delaying the scheduled Feb. 16 Paramount premiere of "Lady in the Dark" to Feb. 22.

Christenberry Heads Red Cross Committee

Robert H. Christenberry, vice-president and general manager of the Hotel Astor here, has been named chairman of the Red Cross 1944 war fund drive in the local entertainment, hotel, restaurant and real estate fields. Other leaders of the drive in the theatrical field are now being chosen.

The nationwide drive quota is $200,000,000, of which New York's share is $22,386,000.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 3

PRODUCERS Releasing Corp. has announced that Martin Mooney has been named supervisor of advertising and publicity. He will also continue in his executive post under vice-president Leon Fromkess and will produce four films during the year.

•

Paramount is the fourth major studio to go over the $1,250,000 mark in the war bond drive, according to chairman Henry Ginsberg of the War Finance Committee. Warners, M-G-M and RKO previously attained this figure. Technicolor has reported sales in the amount of $315,000.

•

Warners has announced "Henrietta the Eighth," a musical comedy-romance that will again co-star Dennis Morgan and Irene Manning of "The Desert Song." Robert Buckner will produce four films during the

•

Andrew Stone, producer of "Sensations of 1944," now plans a "Sensations" film annually for the next three years, with Eleanor Powell starred and supported by headline acts.

•

Michael Todd, Broadway producer, has arrived here and is reported discussing picture deals with Darryl Zanuck and others.

•

Universal today signed Islin Auster to an associate producer contract. He was formerly with 20th-Fox and RKO.

•

Mirton Spring, assistant manager of M-G-M's international organization, arrived here today from the East to view his company's new product.

•

William Goetz, head of International Pictures, has signed Linn Watson, radio juvenile, to a long term contract.

•

Joseph Bernhard, vice-president of Warners, has arrived here for a week of conferences with the studio.

•

Universal has signed Donald O'Connor to a new term contract. He reports for induction on Monday.

15-Year Record Here For 'Bernadette'

"The Song of Bernadette" will be one of the "greatest grossers of all time," Tom Connors, distribution head of 20th Century-Fox, predicted here yesterday following completion of the picture's first week at the Rivoli Theatre, at which it broke a 15-year record.

Connors gave credit for the Rivoli record, in part, to the company's promotional campaign, directed by Hal Horne, head of 20th's ad-publicity department.

25% of Bookers In N. Y. Are Women

Of the 60 members of the Motion Picture Bookers Club employed in New York exchanges and local circuits, 15 are women.

Twenty members of the club are now serving in the Armed forces with their families receiving 10 dollars a month from the club if the need exists.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
Joan Fontaine • Orson Welles
"JANE EYRE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
GALA STAGE SHOW
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
in Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
"THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS"
ANNA STEN
KENT SMITH

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Rosalind RUSSELL
Brian AHERNE
in
"What A Woman!"
In Person
Marion Hutton
Extra!
WESSON BROS.

Merle OBERON • Geo. SANDERS
Laird CREGAR
"The LODGER"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus A Big Stage Show
ROXY
7th Ave. & 60th St.

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 10 a. m.
Rivoli B'way & 49th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

"I KISS YOUR HAND, MADAME CURIE!"



856,000 THRILLED NEW YORKERS!

In the ***SEVENTH WEEK*** of its sensational engagement its popularity is undiminished as the thousands who have seen it tell the town of its glorious love story, of its beauty and joy!

Greer Garson
Walter Pidgeon
Madame Curie

Directed by MERVYN LeROY • Produced by SIDNEY FRANKLIN
with
HENRY TRAVERS • ALBERT BASSERMAN • ROBERT WALKER
C. AUBREY SMITH • DAME MAY WHITTY • VICTOR FRANCEN
ELSA BASSERMAN • REGINALD OWEN • VAN JOHNSON
MARGARET O'BRIEN • Screen Play by Paul Osborn and Paul H. Rameau • Based on the Book "Madame Curie" by Eve Curie • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Now Playing at

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL



4th WAR LOAN
BUY AN EXTRA BOND

(Above) *There's no let-up in the ad campaign for M-G-M's great hit! Large spaces bring large crowds in its 7th happy week!*

"Keep up the attack! 4th WAR LOAN!"

THE PRESIDENT *Talks*

THE ruins of London and Coventry, and other cities, are today the proudest monuments to British heroism. Our own civilian population is now relatively safe from such disasters. And, to an ever-increasing extent, our soldiers, sailors and marines are fighting with great bravery and skill on far distant fronts to make sure that we shall remain safe. I should like to tell you one or two stories about the men we have in our armed forces.

"There is, for instance, Dr. Corydon M. Wassell . . .

"He was a missionary, well known for his good works in China. He is a simple, modest, retiring man . . . but he entered the service of his country and was commissioned a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy.

"Dr. Wassell was assigned to duty in Java, caring for wounded officers and men of the cruisers Houston and Marblehead, which had been in heavy action in the Java Seas.

"When the Japanese advanced across the island, it was decided to evacuate as many as possible

. . . AND THE IDEA FOR A GR



Cecil B. DeMille listens to the President's address and immediately launches plans for dramatizing this heroic adventure

O AMERICA . . .



of the wounded to Australia. But about twelve of the men were so badly wounded that they could not be moved. Dr. Wassell remained with these men, knowing that he would be captured by the enemy.

But he decided to make a desperate attempt to get the men out of Java. He asked each of them if he wished to take the chance, and every one agreed. He first had to get the twelve men to the seacoast—fifty miles away . . . The men were suffering severely, but Dr. Wassell kept them alive by his skill, and inspired them by his own courage.

"As the official report said, 'Dr. Wassell was almost like a Christ-like shepherd, devoted to his flock.' On the seacoast, he embarked the men on a little Dutch ship. They were bombed and machine-gunned by waves of Japanese planes . . .

"A few days later, Dr. Wassell and his little flock of wounded men reached Australia safely . . ."

—*President Roosevelt*
In a Nationwide Broadcast

T MOTION PICTURE IS BORN

Paramount
Will Present
CECIL B. DeMILLE'S
HE STORY OF DR. WASSELL"
IN TECHNICOLOR
Starring
GARY COOPER · LARAINE DAY
Produced and Directed by CECIL B. DeMILLE
with
Signe Hasso · Dennis O'Keefe · Carol Thurston · Carl Esmond
Barbara Britton · Stanley Ridges · And Hundreds of Others
Screen Play by Alan LeMay and Charles Bennett · Based upon the story of Dr. Wassell as related by him and fifteen of the wounded soldiers involved . . . and also upon the story by James Hilton

'Flying Bondsmen' Meeting in Field With State Leaders

(Continued from page 1)

conferences will be held by Dan Michalove tomorrow in Atlanta to be followed by a meeting in Charlotte on Monday and in Charleston early in the week. John Harris held the first of his "flying bondsman" meetings in Minneapolis yesterday; Leonard Goldenson will confer in Philadelphia on Tuesday; Major L. E. Thompson will conduct a Cleveland meeting today and a Cincinnati meeting to be attended by Columbus exhibitors as well tomorrow.

All indications at the midway mark of the 4th War Loan drive, Skouras announced yesterday, point to a greater sale of "E" Bonds than in any other war bond drive of the industry. First reports in answer to a telegram sent to the field by Skouras reached him today.

$3,000,000 Premiere In Phila. Tonight

A $3,000,000 bond premiere of "Jane Eyre" at the Boyd Theatre in Philadelphia tonight is being sponsored by the Navy Service League. A $6,000,000 goal has been set for the premiere of "Destination Tokyo" at the Paramount in Omaha next Wednesday, according to Nebraska's exhibitor chairman William Miskell. The first premiere in the city, "Madame Curie," at the same theatre, was a $200,000 sellout.

From Pittsburgh comes word that 76 premieres have been scheduled for western Pennsylvania and West Virginia areas, where only 25 were held during the last drive. In Warners' Cleveland zone 24 houses are holding special events, including "Free Movie Day" at 13 theatres, according to Nat Wolf, zone manager, and J. Knox Strachan, advertising manager. The premiere this week at the Tower Theatre, Fresno, Cal., set a record of 1,200 bonds sold for the house's 950 seats, according to George Gitchins, manager.

Upstate Exhibitors to Lunch Here Feb. 7

Louis Schine will head a delegation of upstate New York exhibitors who will attend a luncheon here on Feb. 7 honoring Charles P. Skouras, national industry chairman of the 4th War Loan drive, at the Waldorf Astoria.

Harry Brandt is chairman of the "Bond for Every Seat" luncheon committee, which includes Edward L. Alperson, tickets; David Weinstock, arrangements; Hal Horne, publicity; Don Jacocks, war loan activity, and Max Cohen, reception.

Netco Sells $149,450 In Bonds at Rallies

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Feb. 3.—Netco Theatres Corp. netted $73,700 at the bond premiere at the Bardavon Theatre here. Program featured the U. S. Military Academy band and Eugene List, concert pianist, on the stage, with "Destination Tokyo." The Broadway Theatre, Newburgh, grossed $75,750 with the same picture. Netco in both instances sold 100 per cent of the bonds through the box office of the theatres.

New Arthur Company Bids For Theatre, Talent Aid

(Continued from page 1)

the conviction that the current schedules of fewer releases not only will persist after the war but may be adopted by companies not now adhering to such schedules. Thus, present product shortages, he believes, will become intensified rather than relieved by future developments.

He predicts that such a situation will impose an economic burden on theatres, through artificially extended runs which return a minimum profit or no profit at all to theatre owners, and which will be relieved only by the availability of new and additional product.

Will Function by Fall

He believes that Exhibitors Distributing Corp., reviving the basic ideas that gave birth to the old First National company and made of it an initial industry power, can supply that product. Arthur predicted that the new company will be functioning by Fall; that it will handle only a few pictures in its first year or two but will reach its full growth within a year after the war.

Franchises have been spoken for by prominent theatre operators in 14 of the 31 exchange centers, representing 55 per cent of distribution income, Arthur stated. He declined to identify franchise candidates but said that the St. Louis and Los Angeles territories, in both of which he has had years of theatre operating experience, will be handled by himself. He explained, however, that that would not preclude others from participating in the franchises in those areas or in other areas in which franchises eventually are assigned.

Franchise Holders Responsible

Franchise holders will be responsible for the distribution quotas of their respective territories. They will participate correspondingly in dividends of the company, Arthur said. For example, a franchise holder for a 12 per cent distribution territory would be responsible, with or without associates, for that amount of national revenue on each release, and would be entitled to 14 per cent of company profits allocated for distribution.

Exhibitors Distributing Corp. will seek at least one show window in each major city, either through its franchise holders or through lease, purchase or construction of theatres, Arthur said. Physical distribution will be through some established organization but sales will be conducted or supervised by franchise holders, he asserted. Arthur said that the old First National company, with which he was associated in the Pacific Northwest territory, proved that exhibitors will do the best selling and merchandising job on pictures in which they themselves own an interest.

Pictures will be offered to all sales possibilities, he said, on the same basis nationally. Every film handled will be sold on percentage but percentages will be allocated according to the best estimates of the picture's possibilities following test runs. The percentage eventually allocated will be the price tag which the picture will carry into every situation and every theatre. In other words, there will be one nationally advertised price for every picture, applicable to all customers, Arthur declared.

The company will have no top executives, he said. It will be owned and operated by exhibitors, working as a national partnership. Deals will be made with all classifications of talent, producers, directors and stars. Banks in several sections of the country have assured the sponsors of financing equivalent to name values of the participating talent in individual productions, Arthur reported.

Talent to Share Dividends

Single picture commitments would be set up, for the most part, with talent. The principal talent involved in each would organize its own company for the production. Exhibitors Distributing will not embark upon production itself, Arthur said. Dividends would be paid to talent on the individual pictures in release, thus assuring certain income over extended periods. This spread-income feature, Arthur said, already has interested top flight talent in the three major classifications: producers, directors and artists. He declined to identify the latter pending completion of arrangements which he predicts will be accomplished in the near future. Arthur left here for Hollywood last night.

Vogel Makes Several Managerial Changes

Joseph R. Vogel, general manager of Loew's Theatres outside New York, reports additional personnel changes: William H. Elder, manager of Loew's, Indianapolis, has been appointed manager of Loew's Midland, Kansas City, replacing John McManus who has resigned; Boyd T. Sparrow, Loew's Park manager in Cleveland, shifts to Loew's, Indianapolis, with Abe Ludacer, assistant manager of the Capitol, New York, appointed manager of Loew's Park, Cleveland.

Wayne Shepler, assistant manager of Loew's Majestic, Evansville, Ind., has been named manager of that theatre, replacing James Carey, who has entered the services.

20th-Fox Getting 1st Runs in Brazil

Twentieth Century-Fox has concluded a deal whereby it has become affiliated with the Palacio Theatre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, owned by Luiz Severino Riberio, who heads a 50-theatre circuit, it was learned here yesterday. Contract covers the granting of a long term franchise to 20th-Fox, whereby the Palacio becomes its exclusive first-run Rio de Janeiro showcase.

The Palacio is the first in Brazil to date to become an exclusive exhibition house for U. S. films for year-round playing. It is understood that negotiations for additional first runs as exclusive 20th-Fox outlets in Brazil are under way.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 166 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

HANK LOWRY, Beacon Theatre, Port Washington, Long Island.
LOUIS CHARNINSKY, Rialto Theatre, Dallas.
H. J. ARNOLD, Indiana Theatre, Terre Haute, Ind.
DAVE MOLDER, Ritz Theatre, Corpus Christi, Tex.
NEVIN MCCORD, Ada Theatre, Boise, Ida.
CHARLES P. HOWARD, Avalon Theatre, Easton, Md.
AL JOHNSON, Lee Theatre, Leesburg, La.
BERT HENSON, American Theatre, Butte, Mont.
AL WEST, Heilig Theatre, Eugene, Ore.
WELDER DANIEL, Warner's Ritz Theatre, San Bernardino, Cal.
THOMAS E. BURNS, JR., Clifton Theatre, Clifton Heights, Pa.
E. LIGHT, Loew's Embassy Theatre, North Bergen, N. J.
RICHARD FRYER, People's Theatre, Chanute, Kan.

Martin Smith Is Allied President

(Continued from page 1)

elected were: M. A. Rosenberg, H. A. Cole, Sidney Samuelson and Jack Kirsch. The following were re-elected to the Allied Caravan Commitee: Rosenberg, Samuelson, Cole, Ainsworth and a member to be named later by the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners.

Myers announced on the eve of his departure for Washington that he has a rough draft of consent decree revisions and counter proposals for presentation to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark who will be asked for an early conference next week with an Allied committee consisting of Col. H. A. Cole, W. F. Crockett, Jessie Stern and Robert Poole, who will arrive in Washington Tuesday. Myers will have the draft completed Wednesday. Allied is demanding a 40, 20 and five per cent cancellation clause as one of many counter proposals, independent exhibitors revealed.

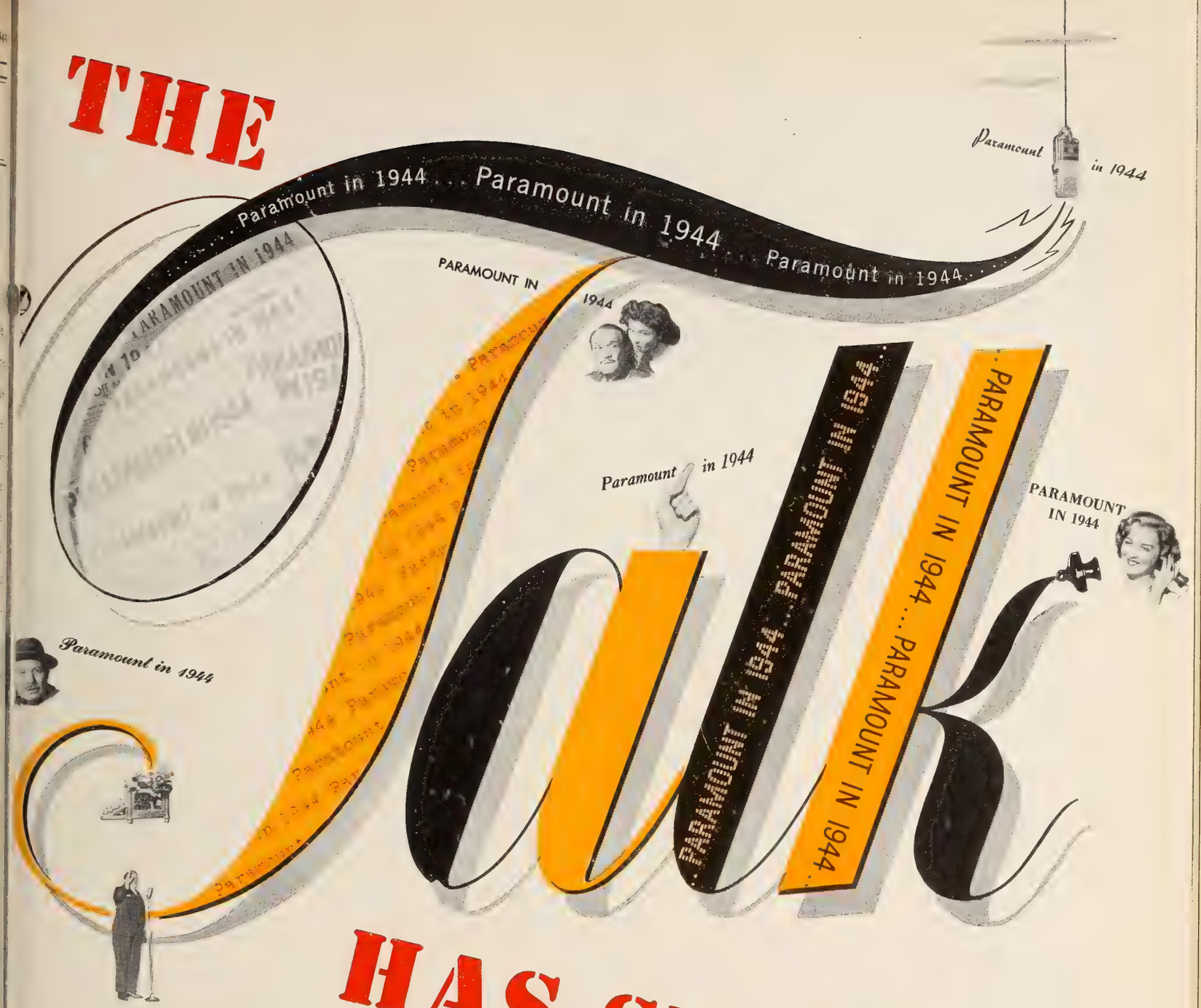
The next quarterly meeting of Allied's board is scheduled for May in Philadelphia.

Mans and O'Reilly File on Clearance

Paul Mans and Donald O'Reilly, operators of the Hudson Theatre, Hudson, Wis., have filed a clearance complaint at the Minneapolis tribunal against the five consenting companies, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

The plaintiffs allege that the present 12-day clearance granted to the Falls, River Falls, Wis., over the Hudson, is unnecessary, arbitrary and unreasonable, and seek a complete elimination or a reasonable maximum.

THE



HAS STARTED

Months in advance, reviews, publishers' advertisements, and planted publicity have begun to build vast ready-made audiences for these valuable story properties and other great productions coming from **PARAMOUNT IN 1944***

* Release dates subject to change

FIRST FULL-COLOR PAGE OF TEN-PAGE STORY FROM LADIES' HOME JOURNAL

FROM THE NATIONAL AD CAMPAIGN



FIRST REVIEWS FROM THE TRADE PRESS

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"

"THIS reviewer rocked and swayed with gales of laughter over 'The Miracle of Morgan's Creek.' For what he saw was something so much better than merely a good comedy that he placed it immediately in the outstanding class. And defies any assaults to the contrary.

"Out of the nimble mind of Preston Sturges, it is one of the funniest pictures in a long span of viewing and reviewing . . . An undisputed wow at the boxoffice." —Red Kann, M. P. Daily

* * *

"Human nature has not been dealt with with such amusing results in a long, long time. Some of the situations in this film are positively excruciating, representing comedy at its very best . . . It should be nothing less than a smash hit.'—Film Daily

Instant Success!

"'Hitler Gang

"Buddy DeSylva's forthcoming Paramount fi 'Hitler Gang,' acco to insiders will to anti-Nazi films."—Wal Winchell.

* * *

"'The Hitler Gang' one of the most unusu movies Hollywood ever tempted." — Frederick Othman

* * *

"Over at Paramou

122,000 copies in print!

THE UNINVITED

by Dorothy Macardle

"I recommend THE UNINVITED if you want your mind taken off the war."—LEWIS GANNETT

$2.50 Doubleday, Doran



"THE MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK"
Starring BETTY HUTTON-EDDIE BRACKEN
Written and Directed By
PRESTON STURGES



"THE UNINVITED"
Starring RAY MILLAND, RUTH HUSSEY, DONALD CRISP
With Cornelia Otis Skinner
And Introducing Gail Russell
Directed by Lewis Allen



"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
Starring GINGER ROGERS, RAY MILLAND, WARNER BAXTER, JON HALL
A MITCHELL LEISEN production
Directed by Mitchell Leisen

AS ADVERTISED NATIONALLY

PREDICTIONS FROM THE EXPERTS

ls No Punches"

y are making a very un-
al picture called 'The
er Gang' . . . It gives
lowdown on the Nazi
b—and they don't pull
nches."–Sidney Skolsky

* * *

The first large-scale, no-
nches-pulled picture
out the war promises to
'The Hitler Gang' at
ramount."—Beau
oadway, N.Y. Telegraph

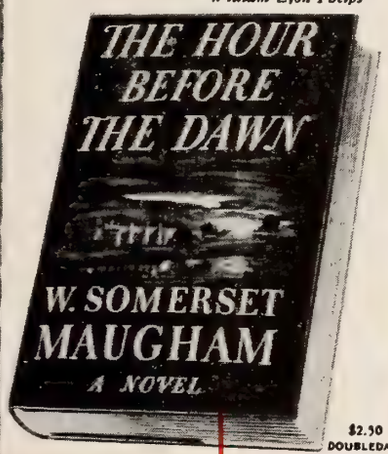
"At his b

—and this novel e
war-time England is M
Somerset Maugham can es
with an economic precision ve
can approach. These characters are quick, vivid,
idiosyncratic, and the shadows that they throw are
symbolic of more than these men and women,
blundering, heroic, enduring, humorous, and
intolerably suffering. Here is a cross-section of
England at war, given with understanding, wit,
love, and a reserved passion which is more effec-
tive because Mr. Maugham has not often allowed
himself to be indignantly passionate."

—The Saturday Review of Literature

"One of the best books that I have read dealing with the present situation in English families during the war, and apart from the war, this novel is tremendously interesting and a beautiful, austere work of art, showing in its plot, characters, and style the hand of a master."

—William Lyon Phelps



$2.50
DOUBLEDAY, DORAN

RAVES FROM THE TRADE PAPERS

"'STANDING ROOM ONLY' IS A RIOT; DELIGHTFUL COMEDY OF ERRORS"

"Gorgeous nonsense from Paul Jones' laugh factory at Paramount"

"If it doesn't live up to its title at every boxoffice in this country, then this country has gone off the laugh standard.

"Director Sidney Lanfield has hit the same rich vein of pay-dirt as in 'My Favorite Blonde.'"—Hollywood Reporter

* * *

" 'Standing Room Only' is one of those enjoyable farce comedy delights . . . Like all good things it ends too soon. A laugh riot . . . Can be a boxoffice whizz."—Showmen's Trade Review

* * *

"Things happen fast and furiously in a script that is packed with snappy and intelligent dialogue and situations that are loaded with laughs. The title should give the exhibitor a hint as to what to expect when he plays this one."—Film Daily



"THE HITLER GANG"
Coming With All-Star Cast
Directed by John Farrow

"STANDING ROOM ONLY"
Starring PAULETTE GODDARD-FRED MacMURRAY
With Edward Arnold, Roland Young
Directed by Sidney Lanfield



"HOUR BEFORE THE DAWN"
Starring FRANCHOT TONE-VERONICA LAKE
Directed by Frank Tuttle



AS ADVERTISED
FROM COAST TO COAST



GOSSIP FROM
THE COLUMNISTS

* * *

"Rise Stevens . . . a beauty. I saw her playing a scene with Bing Crosby in 'Going My Way.' Then I realized the movies had been indifferent to a good bet."—Louella O. Parsons.

* * *

"'Going My Way' is the most timely thing being produced in Hollywood today."—Hedda Hopper

* * *

"Recommended: Bing Crosby's vocal tricks with 'Too-ra-loo-laroo' in 'Going My Way'."—Ed Sullivan

* * *

ADVANCE TIPS FROM
THE SYNDICATES

* * *

"IF 'INCENDIARY BLONDE' is as good as the fast-moving scene I saw with Betty Hutton, it is going to be a honey."
—Louella O. Parsons.

* * *

"As a classic greeter the late Texas Guinan would have approved Betty Hutton playing her on the screen in 'Incendiary Blonde.' Betty is no slouch at it and has a warm spot for the press. She is Paramount's little package of distaff dynamite."
—Harrison Carroll

* * *

"GOING MY WAY"
Starring BING CROSBY-RISE STEVENS
A LEO McCAREY Production
Directed by Leo McCarey





"AND NOW TOMORROW"
Starring LORETTA YOUNG-ALAN LADD
Directed by Irving Pichel



"INCENDIARY BLONDE"
Starring BETTY HUTTON-ARTURO de CORDOVA
Directed by George Marshall

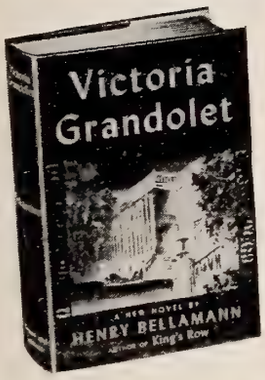
FROM THE NATIONAL AD CAMPAIGN

A FULL PAGE FROM "LIFE"

SIX-COLUMN FEATURE FROM "AMERICAN WEEKLY"

JUST PUBLISHED

The new novel by the author of "KINGS ROW"



THIS is the story of the clash of two strong-willed personalities: a beautiful and ambitious New England and a hot-blooded son of a proud Louisiana clan. Victoria Dunstan and Niles Grandolet marry after a headlong courtship, scarcely knowing one another, and go to live at White Cloud, the great awesome bayou home of the Grandolets.

White Cloud, with its spectral whispering galleries, its portrait-hung walls, its great chandelier which is never soon takes a hand in the conflict, and brings it to a climax psychological power and drama.

Victoria Grandolet is the January selection of the Literary Guild. Price $3

SIMON AND SCHUSTER · PUBLISHERS · ROCKEFELLER CENTER · NEW





YOUNG "HEARTS" W

Starlets land coveted leads in "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay"



"VICTORIA GRANDOLET"
Starring VERONICA LAKE
And Others
Directed by Mitchell Leisen



"FRENCHMAN'S CREEK"
In Technicolor—Starring
JOAN FONTAINE-ARTURO de CORDOVA
Directed by Mitchell Leisen

"OUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY"
With DIANA LYNN-GAIL RUSSELL-JAMES BROWN
DOROTHY GISH-CHARLES RUGGLES
Directed by Lewis Allen



THE *Talk* NEVER STOPS

about this history-making procession of top-grossing successes which in little more than a year have won acknowledged production leadership for—

LOOK AT THE RECORD

Wake Island
Major and The Minor
Road To Morocco
Star Spangled Rhythm
Reap The Wild Wind
Happy Go Lucky
China
Five Graves to Cairo
Dixie
So Proudly We Hail
Let's Face It
True to Life
Riding High
No Time For Love
And – For Whom The Bell Tolls



Paramount

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Lady in the Dark
Cecil B. DeMille's Technicolor Story of Dr. Wassell
Miracle of Morgan's Creek
Standing Room Only
The Uninvited
Going My Way
Hour Before The Dawn
The Hitler Gang
And The Angels Sing
I Love A Soldier
The Great Moment

YOUR FAVORITE COMPANY

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

'Seabees' Is Rated $9,200 over Par In Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 3.—New product plus favorable weather got the week off to a flying start at downtown houses, with virtually all headed for big weeks. Leading is "The Fighting Seabees," pointing to $27,500 at the Stanley plus $4,300 for the dual Earle showing on Sunday.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 2-4:

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
ALDINE—(900) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $15,200. (Average: $10,300).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $3,800. (Average: $3,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $23,400. (Average: $19,000).
"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO) 6 days
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.) 1 day
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) Six days of vaudeville including Vaughn Monroe's orchestra, Phyllis Lynne, Gil Maison, Dorothy Keller and The Murphy Sisters. Gross: $29,700. (Average: $22,000).
"Riding High" (Para.)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $17,800).
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,600).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
KEITH'S — (2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,000. Average: $5,000).
"The North Star" (RKO-Goldwyn)
MASTBAUM — (4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,-200. (Average: $22,000).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
STANLEY—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $27,500. (Average: $18,300).
"Jack London" (UA)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $12,900. (Average: $8,-000).

'Escape' $15,500 in Providence Run

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 3. — Best business here this week was the $15,500 gross by "None Shall Escape" at the Strand. The film was held over for a second week. "The North Star" was going splendidly at the Albee.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 3:

"The North Star" (RKO)
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $12,900).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $10,000).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,500).
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
"Fired Wife" (Univ.)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,300. (Average: $12,000).
"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Majestic. Gross: $4,300. (Average: $3,900).
"Strange Death of Adolf Hitler" (Univ.)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: "Radio Stars on Parade." Gross: $7,100. (Average: $6,500).
"O, My Darling Clementine" (Rep.)
METROPOLITAN—(3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: The Graysons, Victory Twins, Cleo Florentz, Roberta & Mack, Carlton Emmy, Dean & Edwards, Arthur and Morton Havel, Marilee Echors. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,000).

Jacobs Gets 5 Reissues

CLEVELAND, Feb. 3.—M. M. Jacobs of Imperial Pictures here has contracted for Ohio distribution of five reissues, "The Eagle," "Jeannie," "No Greater Love," "Lottery Bride," and "Abraham Lincoln."

Erratic Schedules Force Cancellations

St. John, N. B., Feb. 3.—Unsatisfactory transportation conditions on trains throughout the Eastern Canadian provinces are handicapping movements of prints from local distribution exchanges to theatres and between theatres and branches. Lagging train schedules have forced cancellations of afternoon and even night shows, because of non-appearance of booked pictures.

'Henry Haunts' and Dorsey Get $35,000

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 3.—Box-office figures went soaring this week with the Stanley hitting $35,000 on "Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" and Tommy Dorsey. "Gung Ho!" at the Fulton brought a riot call Sunday, when it was necessary to bring in police to urge patrons to line up at the box office instead of fighting for places.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 4:

"Gung Ho!" (Univ.)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $9,000).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,350. (Average: $9,600).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $20,000).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 5th week, moveover after two weeks at the Penn, two at the Warner. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,000).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover after two weeks at the Harris. Gross: $3,650. (Average: $3,200).
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
STANLEY—(3,800) (35c-50c-75c). On stage: 6 days of vaudeville, including Tommy Dorsey's orchestra, with Gene Krupa. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $22,700).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Penn. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,200).

'Ali Baba' on Dual Paces Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 3.—"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" and "She's for Me" are the current leaders here and will do $14,000 at the Indiana. "True to Life" and "Tornado" at the Circle will gross $10,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 1-3:

"True to Life" (Para.)
"Tornado" (Para.)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $11,000).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,000).
"The North Star" (RKO-Goldwyn)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, moveover. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000).

Pit Strike Settled

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 3.—The pit musicians who struck on Jan. 12 having agreed to submit their wage dispute to the War Labor Board, the Orpheum here will resume stage shows on Feb. 16. Manager Sherill Corwin plans occasionally in the future to give straight film programs, to which he resorted during the strike.

'Casanova' and the Duke Swing $24,000

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 3.—With Duke Ellington and his band at the Fox Theatre and industry participation in the 4th War Loan drive, first runs are booming this week. The Fox, with "Casanova in Burlesque," also, is headed for $24,000, and "Higher and Higher" at the Ambassador will hit $19,-000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 2:

"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
AMBASSADOR — (3,154) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $12,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $16,900).
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $16,500).
"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000).
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $6,900).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"Government Girl" (RKO)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,-000).
"Ten Nights in a Barroom"
"The Great Train Robbery" (Rep.)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).

'Curie' $1,600 Over Par in 2nd Week

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 3.—"Madame Curie" played to $4,800 in its second week at the College, over par by $1,-600. At the Roger Sherman, "Desert Song" and "Murder on the Water Front" took $7,800, up by $1,400, and at the Paramount "The Fighting Seabees" and "Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" grossed $7,200, over by $800. Sudden cold snap caused a few dull nights. The Paramount dual took most of the "kid" business.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 2:

"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
BIJOU—(1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,800. (Average: $3,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
COLLEGE—(1,565) (40c-50c) 7½ days. 2nd week. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $3,200).
"The North Star" (RKO)
"Headin' for God's Country" (Rep.)
LOEW'S POLI—(3,005) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,300).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $7,200. (Average: $6,400).
"Desert Song" (WB)
"Murder on the Water Front" (WB)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $6,400).

Local RKO Circuit Personnel Shifted

Several changes have been effected in the local RKO circuit as a result of the promotion of S. Wexo, previously manager of the RKO-Midway to the post of division manager in the lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens zone.

Carl Siegel, manager of the RKO-Greenpoint, has become manager of the Midway; James McCarthy, assistant manager of the Kenmore, will manage the Greenpoint; Nicholas Sachs, assistant manager of the Midway, has been transferred to the Kenmore; Morton Meyer, assistant manager of the Orpheum, has become assistant manager and treasurer of the Midway.

'Seabees' and 'Casanova' Get $49,000 in L.A.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 3. — Chill and drizzle at the weekend didn't keep "Fighting Seabees," coupled with "Casanova in Burlesque," from heading for $49,000 at the two Paramounts, which average a combined $32,422. Nor "Desert Song" from running up $76,445 temperature in the Warner first-run triad that normally averages $54,000. Sinatra fans pushed "Higher and Higher" as high as $43,300 in FWC's Egyptian-Los Angeles-Ritz setup, where $34,727 is par. Loew's State announced an all-night-grind policy, starting with the next bill, to take care of stayers-up in its downtown location.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 2:

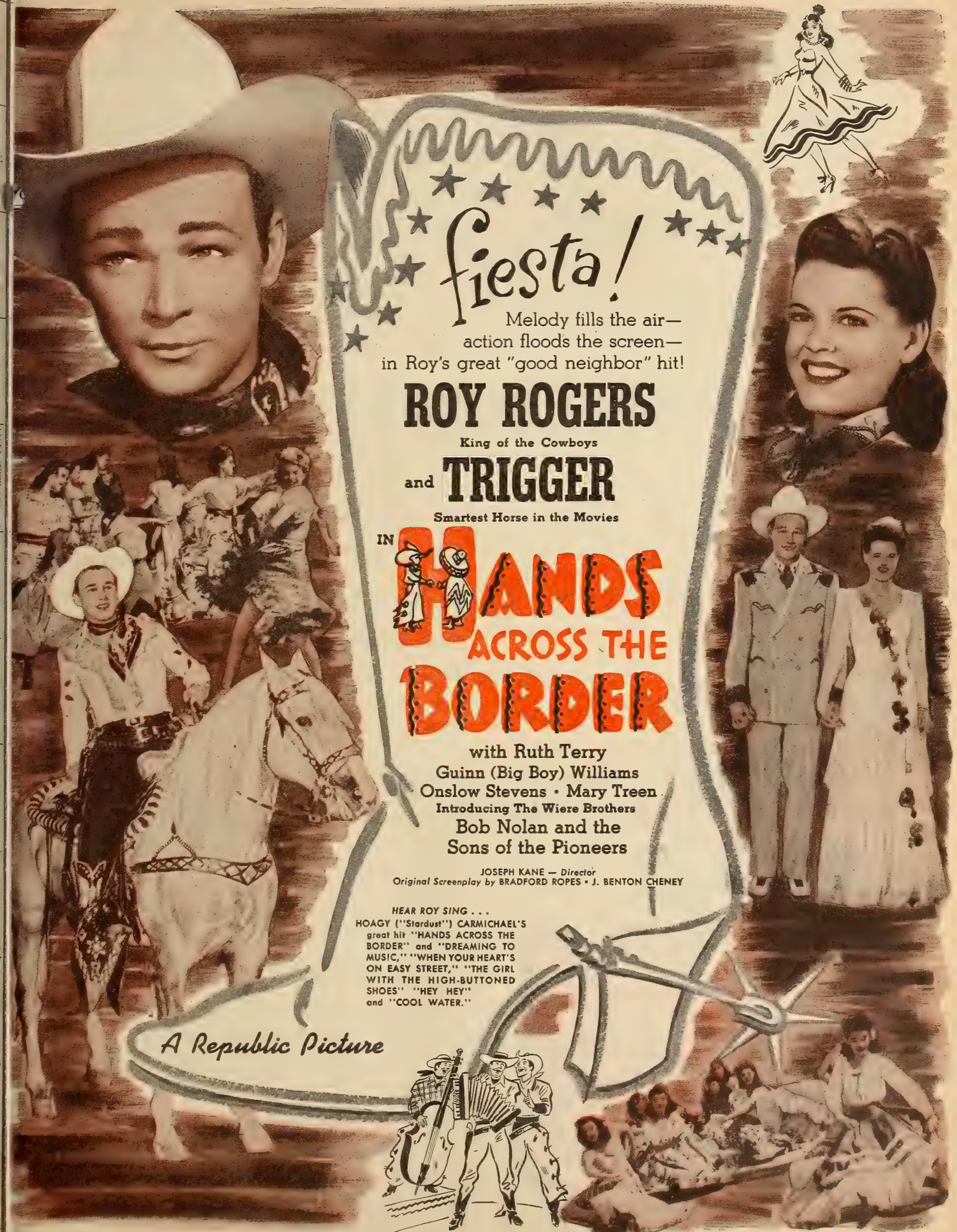
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $11,200. (Average: $11,880).
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $12,300. (Average: $15,692).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $10,590).
"Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
"The Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $5,865).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"So's Your Uncle" (Univ.)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $19,544).
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $23,-577).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $14,354).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"So's Your Uncle" (Univ.)
PANTAGES—(2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $16,846).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD—(1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,115).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $21,307).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. iGross: $9,800. (Average: $9,873).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $19,800. (Average: $27,967).
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
UPTOWN—(1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $9,200. (Average: $10,318).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS. HOLLYWOOD—(3,-000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $27,-356. (Average: $16,362).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS. DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $25,526. (Average: $18,480).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS. WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $23,563. (Average: $17,162).
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
FOX-WILSHIRE — (2,300) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,750).

To Screen Dutch Film

"The Dutch Tradition," showing the contribution of the Netherlands to the war effort, will be previewed here today by the Netherland-America Foundation. The 27-minute picture has also been made in Spanish and Portugese for Latin America.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 8		(Second Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)	WOMEN IN BONDAGE Gail Patrick D—71 mins. (303)	(Second Block) RIDING HIGH (Technicolor) Dorothy Lamour Dick Powell Victor Moore M—89 mins. (4307)	CAREER GIRL Frances Langford M—66 mins. (403)	CALIFORNIA JOE Don "Red" Barry Helen Talbot Wally Vernon O	(First Block) A LADY TAKES A CHANCE Jean Arthur John Wayne C—(405)	THE LODGER Merle Oberon George Sanders Laird Cregar D—84 mins. (417)		SING A JINGLE Allan Jones June Vincent Samuel S. Hinds M—62 mins. (8034)	DESTINATION TOKYO Cary Grant John Garfield D—135 mins. (309)
Jan. 15	THE RACKET MAN Tom Neal Jeanne Bates Hugh Beaumont D—64 mins.	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN Jackie Cooper D—72 mins. (302)	NO TIME FOR LOVE Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray Ilka Chase C—83 mins. (4309)		PRIDE OF THE PLAINS Bob Livingston Smiley Burnette O HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Roy Rogers O—74 mins. (341)	THE FALLEN SPARROW Maureen O'Hara John Garfield D—(401)		THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS Anna Sten Kent Smith D—79 mins.	ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES (in Technicolor) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—87 mins. (8003)	
Jan. 22	SWING OUT THE BLUES Bob Haymes Lynn Merrick M—70 mins.	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)	SULTAN'S DAUGHTER Ann Corio C—64 mins. (888) WESTWARD BOUND O—(362) VODOO MAN Bela Lugosi D	HENRY ALDRICH HAUNTS A HOUSE Jimmy Lydon Charles Smith John Litel C—73 mins. (4306)	NABONGA Buster Crabbe Fifi D'Orsay Barton MacLane D—73 mins. (408)	ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RHYTHM Gene Autry (Re-issue) O (3301)	ADVENTURES OF A ROOKIE Wally Brown Allen Carney C—(402)	UNCENSORED (Made in England) Phyllis Calvert Griffiths Jones D—83 mins. (418)		SPIDER WOMAN Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce Gale Sondergaard D—62 mins. (8021)	
Jan. 29	BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKE Joan Davis John Hubbard C—74 mins.	A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)	WHAT A MAN Johnnie Downs C—66 mins. (228) RAIDERS OF THE BORDER Johnny Mack Brown O—(352)	MINESWEEPER Richard Arlen Jean Parker D—67 mins. (4308)		WOMEN IN WAR Elsie Janis D	THE SEVENTH VICTIM Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(403)	LIFEBOAT Talullah Bankhead William Bendix D—96 mins. (419)	KNICKER-BOCKER HOLIDAY Nelson Eddy Charles Coburn D	PHANTOM LADY Franchot Tone Ella Raines Alan Curtis D—87 mins.	
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE Marsha Hunt Alexander Knox D—85 mins.	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417) RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—(418)			MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—67 mins. (409)		SO THIS IS WASHINGTON Lum & Abner C—(404)			SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D—63 mins.	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—115 mins. (419)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)			(Second Block) THE IRON MAJOR Pat O'Brien D—85 mins. (406)	(Feb. Releases. No definite date set) JANE EYRE Joan Fontaine Orson Welles D—96 mins.	THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D—94 mins. (8066)	THIS IS THE ARMY (Regular release) George Murphy Joan Leslie M—115 mins. (224)
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—(420)				CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins. (333)	GANGWAY FOR TOMORROW Margo Robert Ryan D—(407)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D—111 mins.		WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)	THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (Made in England) D—(413)		GOVERNMENT GIRL Olivia De Havilland Sonny Tufts D—(408)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M	
Mar. 4		SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)	THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)	FRONTIER OUTLAW Buster Crabbe O—(462)		GILDERSLEEVE ON BROADWAY Harold Peary Billie Burke C—65 mins. (409)				FRISCO KID (Re-issue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11	HEY ROOKIE! Ann Miller Joe Besser Larry Parks C	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE Lionel Atwill Joan Parker D—(414)		THE FALCON AND THE CO-EDS Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(410)		VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	CROSS YOUR FINGERS Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett C	
Mar. 18	TWO-MAN SUBMARINE Tom Neal Ann Savage J. Carroll Naish D	MADAME CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)		TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)		MOJAVE FIREBRAND Wild Bill Elliott G. "Gabby" Hayes 55 mins.—(377)	NORTH STAR Anne Baxter Walter Huston Dana Andrews D—105 mins. (451)			LADIES COURAGEOUS Loretta Young Geraldine Fitzgerald Phillip Terry D	


fiesta!
Melody fills the air—
action floods the screen—
in Roy's great "good neighbor" hit!
ROY ROGERS
King of the Cowboys
and TRIGGER
Smartest Horse in the Movies
IN HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER
with Ruth Terry
Guinn (Big Boy) Williams
Onslow Stevens • Mary Treen
Introducing The Wiere Brothers
Bob Nolan and the
Sons of the Pioneers
JOSEPH KANE — Director
Original Screenplay by BRADFORD ROPES • J. BENTON CHENEY
HEAR ROY SING . . .
HOAGY ("Stardust") CARMICHAEL'S great hit "HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER" and "DREAMING TO MUSIC," "WHEN YOUR HEART'S ON EASY STREET," "THE GIRL WITH THE HIGH-BUTTONED SHOES" "HEY HEY" and "COOL WATER."
A Republic Picture

Repair Needs Seen As Serious by U. S.

(*Continued from page* 1)

projection and sound equipment, constitute the most general needs of exhibitors.

Eberson disclosed today that he has already conferred with chair manufacturers regarding their facilities for civilian production and has found that a number of them could produce a limited quantity to a new standard specification which would be set up.

The situation with respect to plywood, steel springs, cast iron and strip and sheet steel has recently eased up, he said, but it would be necessary to use substitutes for stuffing and burlap.

It was made clear that the chair program will be developed with full consideration of military needs and will not be permitted to interfere with the war effort. Only a limited production is being sought and no exhibitors will be given any assistance in refitting an entire auditorium.

Court Rebukes Moss

New York Supreme Court Justice Denis O'Leary Cohalan yesterday characterized the actions of License Commissioner Paul Moss as "arbitrary and capricious" in suspending the license of William L. Deutsch, operating the Supreme Ticket Office here and granted Deutsch's petition for an injunction restraining Moss from further suspending his license.

Says Rank Will Invade U. S. Market Regardless

(*Continued from page* 1)

on his way to Hollywood to seek an American writer and director, and to shoot exteriors for "Signed with Their Honor."

The new Independent Producers plans to concentrate on high budget productions aimed at the world market, Soskin revealed. Discussing the new producing unit of the Rank interests, Soskin explained the set-up includes Gabriel Pascal, Michael Powell, Emerich Pressburger and Soskin, with the possibility of Noel Coward joining the group. Each will make two to three $1,000,000 to $2,000,000 pictures a year, sharing in 25 per cent of the profits after the negative costs and eventually deriving a further share of profits from world distribution, he added. "New producers will be added to this company by unanimous vote of those already participating," Soskin revealed. He admitted that overtures will be made to American producers to join. "The new set-up resembles that of United Artists only the participants are all producers and not actors," Soskin declared.

Industry Was on Small Scale

"The British film industry did not exist on a scale where it could command a world market for its product until the war began," Soskin said. "The majority of its technicans were insular in their outlook, producing principally for a domestic market of some 5,000 theatres. Their product did not justify world recognition," he added. "Post-war outlook and present conditions have changed all this," he said. "In making $1,000,000 budget productions, English producers cannot recoup their negative costs from England," Soskin said, in explaining Rank's desire for world markets.

Soskin said that part of his mission here is to secure cooperation of American technicians to help Rank make films which would have an appeal in the American market. He said David Selznick has already shown a willingness to cooperate, and added that he hopes to secure the services of Dorothy McGuire or Jennifer Jones to star in "Signed with Their Honor."

Studio Space Limited

In view of limited studio space, British producers will not be able to make more than the 44 to 49 films they made last year. Already lined up for production by the new unit besides "Signed with Their Honor," which Soskin will produce, and "Caesar and Cleopatra" to be produced by Pascal, are "Fame Is the Spur," by Howard Spring, to be produced by Soskin, and "Canterbury Tales," which Powell and Pressburger will produce.

Soskin plans to leave for Hollywood next Tuesday and will remain there for several months.

Chi Union Elects With One Casualty

(*Continued from page* 1)

Theatre, secretary-treasurer. Out of a possible 691 votes, 629 were cast.

While voting at the Hotel Hamilton was in an orderly fashion, a slugging of a candidate defeated for trustee marked another phase in the union's turbulent history. The victim of the attack by three men early this morning is Angelo Brescia, operator, for eight years at the Alvin Theatre.

He was returning home from work when the trio pounced upon him as he mounted the stairs at an elevated station, clubbing him until he collapsed. His condition is reported serious at the County Hospital, where an examination revealed internal injuries and possible skull fracture.

Trustees elected are Phil Kore and Edward Smith; executive board members, Charles Funk, Sam Klugman, Charles B. McNeill and Arthur Tuchman.

Richard Walsh, president of IATSE, supervised the election and publicly announced the results recorded on the voting machines. He promised the union its local autonomy if the International was satisfied the new officers could conduct their offices and that gangster rule is a thing of the past.

Marcus Promoted to Sales Supervisor

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing of Joe Gins from Charlotte branch manager to the newly created post of Detroit manager, with the Charlotte branch being taken over by George Roscoe who has been a salesman in the exchange there.

Territory under Marcus will include Des Moines, Omaha and Minneapolis branches, headed by Mel Evidon, Joe Jacobs and H. J. Chapman, respectively. He will also supervise the Kansas City office. Marcus took charge of the latter in 1936 after joining the company in 1927 as Minneapolis branch manager.

Also announced at yesterday's meeting was the fact that Central division supervisor Carl Shalit, with headquarters in Detroit, will act as home office coordinator for the Buffalo exchange, headed by Phil Fox, and the Albany exchange, headed by Joe Miller, in addition to the four offices currently in his district: Indianapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City and Detroit.

Individual meetings between home office sales executives, district supervisors and branch managers marked the concluding session.



Classification Wage Rises Seen for 3,000

(*Continued from page* 1)

tists in New York whose employes are represented by the Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, Local 109, CIO. SOPEG has been conducting negotiations direct, toward the establishment of job classification and the granting of wage increases as well, and is awaiting a War Labor Board ruling.

Basson and the companies would establish minimum and maximum wage scales for the white-collarites, although Basson is understood to be seeking the classification system which would automatically bring increases to most of the workers. It is not considered unlikely that an overall increase will be sought to cover employes who would not benefit by such a system.

Approval by the War Labor Board of job classifications and maximum and minimum wage scales was recently secured by the M. P. Office Employes Union, Local 23169 AFL, for some 600 white-collarites employed in the Warner home office.

Sees Television Curbed

Insistence by many in the radio industry that television must be technically perfect before it is offered on a large scale to the public is one of the foremost problems facing the future development of television, according to Norman S. Waters, president of the American Television Society.

Loew's Books 'Cowboy'

"Cowboy Canteen," first of two "special" Westerns from Columbia, has been booked to play the Loew Metropolitan Circuit, it was announced by the company here yesterday. This is the first Columbia Western to play the Loew circuit.

Curfew in Fort Smith

FORT SMITH, Ark., Feb. 3.—Mayor Chester Holland, acting under authority of an old city ordinance, has placed in effect here an 8:30 p.m. curfew for those under 15.



100 EXHIBITORS!

THEY will be honored throughout the industry and their names will be famous in the trade press!

THEY will be given a free trip to Washington with all expenses paid.

THEY will be named to the Industry's Executive Advisory Committee of the 5th War Loan.

THEY will receive a personal letter of congratulation from the Secretary of the Treasury and will be presented with a tribute scroll, an honorary medallion and other awards.

THEY will be featured in the Official Report of the industry to the nation on the 4th War Loan; and they and their staffs will wear a special "E" lapel button from the Treasury Department.

THEY will be honored in their home states and in their localities with important dignitaries present!

THEY are the industry's patriotic showmen who from Jan. 1st through Jan. 29th sell the most "E" Bonds in ratio to their seating capacity.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO BE AMONG THE

HONORED HUNDRED!

War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, New York City



The best possible evidence that this is a TOP box-office picture!

Review

"Phantom Lady"

(Universal)

EXHIBITORS should not be misled by the title "Phantom Lady," into pegging it as just another horror film. On the contrary, as produced by Joan Harrison and directed by Robert Siodmak, it is a top-notch psychological murder mystery melodrama packed with 87 minutes of suspense and action in the best Alfred Hitchcock manner. It is guaranteed to leave limp the most hearty devotees of this type of film. Word of mouth advertising will go a long way in selling it to the customers.

While too much credit cannot be given to Miss Harrison and Siodmak for their handling of the Bernard C. Schoenfeld screen play derived from a novel by William Irish, much of its effect is due to Ella Raines and Franchot Tone for their handling of the top roles. As the personable sculptor who is supposedly afflicted with paranoia, which leads him to a series of vicious murders, Tone turns in a grand performance. Miss Raines as secretary of Alan Curtis, a successful civil engineer who is convicted of one of the crimes committed by his friend, Tone, is neat in the role of detective. The slight romance between Miss Raines and Curtis provides this film with appeal for all types of audiences.

The phantom lady of the title is Curtis' only alibi when his wife is murdered, but the very people who identify him deny having seen him with the lady in question, whom he met at a bar. When Curtis is convicted, Miss Raines takes over the search for the elusive female. She succeeds in wearing down two witnesses, a bartender and a "hep-cat" drummer, but accidental death strikes in the first instance and murder in the second before she can obtain conclusive evidence that they have been bribed to deny the existence of Curtis' "phantom" alibi. Tone enters the picture at this point and is revealed as the murderer. He befriends Miss Raines and joins in the search for the elusive female, naturally to help his old friend Curtis, but more important to oversee Miss Raines' efforts to locate the elusive alibi through an unusual hat. Miss Raines almost joins Tone's list of victims before she discovers the truth. Tone plunges through a window when cornered by the police.

Besides the romantic relief, there are also two musical sequences in the film which are part of the action. One, a surreptitious "jive" session, is unique. Other performers, including Curtis, Fay Helm, Aurora Miranda, sister of Carmen; Andrew Tombes, and Regis Toomey, are satisfactory. Elwood Bredell's photography catches the spirit of the action.

Running time, 87 mins. Release date, Jan. 29. "G."*

MILT LIVINGSTON

*"G" denotes general classification.

Phantom Lady

starring

FRANCHOT TONE

ELLA RAINES

ALAN CURTIS

with THOMAS GOMEZ • AURORA

ELISHA COOK, Jr. • FAY HELM

ANDREW TOMBES

Directed by ROBERT SIODMAK • Associate Producer, JOAN HARRISON • Screen Play by Bernard C. Schoenfeld

Based on the novel by William Irish

DO NOT REMOVE

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 26 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1944 TEN CENTS

Big Industry 4th War Loan Show on Blue

Nation's Theatres Will Tune in Wednesday

First radio use by the organized industry for the sale of war bonds has been set for Wednesday evening over the Coast-to-Coast Blue Network. A 25-minute program starting at 9:30 p.m. E. W. T., from Hollywood with heavy star participation will be carried over 170 stations and picked up and rebroadcast to theatre audiences through house sound systems.

The program, time for which is being donated by Coca-Cola, is being prepared in Hollywood. The program is being arranged by the U. S. Treasury Department as a tribute to the industry's war effort in the 4th War Loan.

The "theatre pickup" portion of the show is being planned as a stimulant for bond sales in the 4th War Loan. Theatres are being contacted

(*Continued on page 7*)

'Lady' to Play at Established Scales

Exhibitors will not be asked to raise admission scales for "Lady in the Dark," Neil Agnew, Paramount vice-president and distribution head, told a company sales meeting at the Hotel Pierre here over the weekend.

Sales and merchandising plans for the film and for other forthcoming Paramount releases, including Cecil B. De Mille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell," "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "Frenchman's Creek," also were discussed at the meeting. All four pro-

(*Continued on page 8*)

1,200 Will Honor Chas. Skouras Today

More than 1,200 will honor Charles P. Skouras, national industry chairman of the 4th War Loan drive, at a luncheon today at the Waldorf-Astoria. The event is being sponsored by New York and New Jersey exhibitors.

Among those scheduled to speak are: Ted R. Gamble, national director of the Treasury's War Finance Division; Edward L. Alperson, general manager of RKO Theatres; Si Fabian, Fabian Theatres; Harry Brandt, luncheon committee chairman, and Skouras.

Academy's Nominations for Annual Awards Are Made

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Ten pictures, 20 players, five directors and 15 writers were nominated for Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences honors today, following tabulation of ballots from 4,000 voters. Distribution of 10,000 ballots in Hollywood for voting in the final elections will begin Feb. 11. Awards to winners will be made March 2 at the Chinese Theatre. Nominations follow:

Outstanding picture: "Casablanca," Warners; "For Whom the Bell Tolls," Paramount; "Heaven Can Wait," 20th Century-Fox; "The Human Comedy," MGM; "In Which We Serve," (British) Two Cities-United Artists; "Madame Curie," MGM; "The More the Merrier," Columbia; "The Ox-Bow Incident," 20th Century-Fox; "The Song of Bernadette," 20th Century-Fox; "Watch on the Rhine," Warners.

(*Continued on page 8*)

Academy Program On Air for Troops

Hollywood, Feb. 6. — The Academy awards committee discloses here that the annual presentation ceremonies at the Chinese Theatre on March 2 will be shortwaved to all United Nations troops abroad. with a show included to feature stars who have entertained overseas. There will be no speeches, a precedent. In charge of arrangements are John LeRoy Johnston, Alex Evelove, Arch Reeve and Hal Hall.

Revised Code for Canadian Exchange

TORONTO, Feb. 6.—A completely revised code of Ontario regulations for handling and distribution of films is scheduled to go into effect in March, according to information from a most reliable source, following the adoption of amended rules resulting from the film exchange fire here.

Film companies will not be compelled to move outside of Toronto, but

(*Continued on page 7*)

Arch Bowles, FWC Gen'l Manager, Dies

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—Arch Bowles, general manager of Fox West Coast theatres, died at the St. Francis Hospital here today following an illness of several months. He leaves a wife and two children.

Bowles, a veteran theatre operator on the Pacific Coast, had been general manager of all Fox West Coast theatres since August, 1942. Prior to that he had been manager of the Southern and Northern California divisions of FWC. Before joining FWC he was general manager of the old Turner & Dahnken circuit.

"Up in Arms"

[*Samuel Goldwyn-RKO Radio*]

ANY theatre having patrons who will pay to see smart comedy, amusing action, feminine beauty and to hear good popular music, all in lush production surroundings, glorified by Technicolor at its best, should plan now to please those customers, one and all. Samuel Goldwyn's "Up in Arms" stands ready to do just that.

The new Goldwyn production, directed by Elliott Nugent and with Don Hartman as associate producer, is an entertainment dish, a full-course dinner, rather, to be relished by anyone with a palate for theatre fun. Danny Kaye, aided and abetted throughout the picture by Dinah Shore, Dana Andrews and Constance Dowling, among many, gives a zaney fillip to the goings-on that the customers will relish. There is a nice balance achieved between story and music, and enough of lighthearted romance to season the whole to the taste of the most finicky.

Despite the luxurious production, the picture does not take even itself seriously. One of Kaye's best numbers is devoted to a kidding of the "movies," and that in the setting of an overcrowded theatre lobby. Again, in a sequence aboard an Army transport bound for the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Independents, Clark Begin Talks Tuesday

MPTOA Is Not Ready for Decree Hearings

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Exhibitor objections to various phases of the "final" consent decree proposals advanced by distributors will reach the Department of Justice this week, when representatives of at least two exhibitor organizations are scheduled to confer with Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark.

The MPTOA may not be in readiness for a meeting with Clark on the new decree proposals for some time, Ed Kuykendall, president, indicated at the weekend. Kuykendall declared that MPTOA directors now are studying the proposals; will take no hasty action and "will not be rushed into decisions."

So far, Clark said at the weekend,

(*Continued on page 8*)

Monogram Again Sets 44 Features

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—"Monogram will have 28 features and 16 Westerns in 1944-45, the same as the current season," W. Ray Johnston, president, stated here prior to his departure for Eastern sales meetings today.

"The company will exceed all past budgets next season," he added. "Inclusion of a number of 'A' productions in our program has taken Monogram into many theatres which have never

(*Continued on page 8*)

RKO Coast Radio Show on 15 Stations

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—RKO will launch itself on the air in shows originating from the studio over 15 Coast stations in three weeks as the first step in what is expected to be finally an extension into the international field. The show will be confined to the Pacific area, but reaching as far East as some Colorado towns, it is designed to test the ground and develop programs into a formula held sufficiently well rounded for nation-wide broadcasting.

It will start at noon and run for 15 minutes Monday through Friday.

Personal Mention

PETER PERAKOS is the fifth son of DR. GEORGE PERAKOS to enter miltary service. DR. PERAKOS is co-owner of the Quittner & Perakos Circuit, Connecticut.

•

DAVE SUGARMAN, manager of Warners' Colonial, Hartford, has entered St. Francis Hospital there for several weeks. GEORGE RAMSDELL is substituting for him.

•

LOUELLA PARSONS, in Baltimore from Los Angeles, was a Variety Club luncheon guest there late last week.

•

EUGENE MYERS, Loew's West Bronx theatre division manager, is observing his 37th year with the company today.

•

RUDOLPH MONTER and ARTHUR RIPLEY, co-producers for United Artists, returned to Hollywood over the weekend.

•

LARNEY GOODKIND, former Eastern story and talent head for Universal, is now attached to a Special Services unit at Camp Ritchie, Md.

•

AL SCHEINHAUS was feted by associates in Universal's export department recently on the occasion of his 20th year of service with the company.

•

BOB OROPAL, assistant head of Universal's mail and messenger department, will be inducted into the Army this week.

•

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, Hollywood producer, is in Doctors' Hospital here for a checkup.

•

ISADORE M. RAPPAPORT, Baltimore Hippodrome Theatre owner, is in New York for several days.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, Warners' short subject sales manager, is on a tour of Southern exchanges.

•

JACK SICHELMAN of 20th-Fox's sales department has returned to the home office from a Florida vacation.

•

JACK HUBER, assistant manager of Universal's contract department, will go into the Navy in about a week.

•

J. LOUIS ROME, Baltimore circuit operator, is in Florida on vacation.

•

FRANK DURKEE, Baltimore circuit owner, is in Florida for two weeks.

•

MARY PICKFORD left for Hollywood yesterday.

•

JOSEPH R. VOGEL, Loew circuit executive, has returned from Chicago.

Adamson Gets Altec

SEATTLE, Feb. 6.—Barclay W. Ardell, Altec district manager here, reports a deal with A. W. Adamson, Vancouver, Wash., for Altec service in his six theatres in Vancouver and Albany and Corvallis, Ore.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

EVEN a cursory examination of the proposals for revision of the consent decree—not in the original, for Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark has not condescended yet to make them available to the industry's press, but in the form in which they were made public by Clark in Washington on Tuesday—reveals that the proposals are liberal in the main and, on the whole, go much farther in the way of voluntary concessions than organized exhibition was able to win for itself in months of negotiations with distribution representatives during the 1942 efforts of the United Motion Picture Industry.

Organized exhibition, to all intents and purposes, accepted the Umpi trade practice program. The only remaining step before it could be placed in effect was to obtain the sanction of the Department of Justice. The Department rejected the Umpi plan.

It is deserving of comment now that the Department of Justice let it be known in Washington last Tuesday, by whatever means, that the distributors' present proposals for the revision of the consent decree do not measure up to whatever expectations the Department may have as to what should be included in a decree for the industry. Clark did not attest to any such interpretation, to be sure. Yet the stories out of Washington to the industry's press made it clear to all who read that such was the case. We are reluctant to assume that the trade press correspondents in Washington interviewed the information clerk at the Justice Building and on such an interview based their interpretations of the Department's official attitude toward the new decree proposals.

• •

The timing of the publicity on the Department's attitude is of particular significance. At the very time that Washington trade press correspondents were learning, from whatever source, that the new decree proposals were wanting insofar as the Department of Justice was concerned, organized exhibition across the country was reading and endeavoring to appraise for itself the decree proposals which, as we have said, were more liberal in virtually every respect than those which organized exhibition was ready to accept through Umpi in 1942.

This set of circumstances resolves itself into an unmistakable design. The cue to hold out a little longer to increase the pressure was passed from Washington to organized exhibition in a manner too obvious to require further comment. Texas has a good term for that sort of maneuvering. It's "horsetrading."

It would appear that the Department of Justice, having pushed the negotiating distributors to what it obviously considered the limit, desired to make sure that the limit actually had been reached. It could do so by raising a hue and cry within organized exhibition. Last week's word from Chicago would indicate that the plan already has attained its initial success.

There is no intent here to quarrel with any sincere effort on the part of the Department of Justice or any other factor in the decree negotiations to gain for exhibitors everything they are entitled to, down to the last adjective, and beyond it if the distributors can afford to give it. We do question the methods which obviously have been employed. And we question the possible results.

If the distributors have acted in good faith, and there is no reason yet made public to believe that they have not, just a little more jostling of them, by whatever source, may bring greater discord, disunity and lasting injury to this industry than all the machinations of the Department of Justice ever may be able to repair.

• •

Nobody asked us what we thought of Joe Schenck's decision not to alter "Lifeboat" despite the fact that Dorothy Thompson and Bosley Crowther didn't like it, but should anyone do so we would be happy to say that we believe it can do with much more discussion of that kind in the public prints than it can with alterations.

• •

We learn that J. Arthur Rank, by virtue of his 25 per cent interest in Universal, had been on the board of the parent holding company for the past several years. He became a member of the operating company's board, Universal Pictures, when that company and the parent were merged several months ago, simply as a natural consequence of the merger.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 6

COLUMBIA has elevated Jack Fier to production managership of all features produced under Irving Briskin's supervision.

•

M-G-M studio employes have broken all studio records with bond purchases amounting to $753,500, and the studio has bought an additional $250,000 worth, bringing the total to $2,300,500, W. K. Craig of the studio War Finance Committee announced over the weekend.

New Code Seen for Canadian Industry

TORONTO, Feb. 6.—From a Government source it has been learned that the scheduled meeting at Ottawa Tuesday between the National Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada and officials of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board on trade grievances has been indefinitely postponed pending developments in negotiations between branches of the industry.

This is the first indication of a tangible nature that an agreement is in sight for a new industrial code incorporating exchanges, circuits and unaffiliated exhibitors and for a basis on which to approach the Government to ask that it relinquish Federal stabilization control as a wartime measure.

Two More Circuits In Booking Combine

BOSTON, Feb. 6.—Allied Management Corp., theatre film-buying and booking combine, recently formed with Sol Edwards as its chief, has taken over the buying for two more New England circuits: Morse and Rothenberg and Arthur Vianno circuits.

Morse and Rothenberg operate in Adams, Lynn, Haverhill, Everett, Roxbury and Boston, all in Massachusetts; Portsmouth and Nashua, New Hampshire, and in Norwalk and New London, in Connecticut. Vianno's theatres are in Somerville and Arlington, Mass. Edwards expects to expand further.

Thall Quits 20th For Donahue & Coe

Jac Thall, trade paper advertising manager under Charles Schlaifer at 20th Century-Fox, resigned on Friday, effective in two weeks, to join Donahue & Co., advertising agency here, where he will handle film advertising accounts.

Thall joined 20th-Fox in 1935 in the press book department, subsequently moving over to trade paper advertising. He had been previously associated with Universal and RKO.

Jennie Fox Promoted

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6.—Jennie Fox, formerly traveling auditor for PRC, has taken over Harold Rosenthal's position as PRC booker.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT

from 20th CENTURY-FOX! . . . and

CLAUDIA

from 20th CENTURY-FOX! . . . and

WINTERTIME

from 20th CENTURY-FOX! . . . and

SWEET ROSIE O'GRADY

from 20th CENTURY-FOX! . . . and

GUADALCANAL DIARY

from 20th CENTURY-FOX! . . . and

HAPPY LAND

from 20th CENTURY-FOX! . . . and

THE GANG'S ALL HERE

from 20th CENTURY-FOX! . . . and



The Sullivans

Irish as the Blarney Stone, American as the Red, White and Blue!

The Sullivans

to know them, to meet them, is to l

The



Directed by

LLOYD BACON

Produced by

SAM JAFFE

Associate Producer

ROBERT T. KANE

em every one!

Sullivans

they cried and laughed and lived and fought together!

The Sullivans

they don't make 'em any better, any bigger, any finer!

20th CENTURY-FOX presents

The Sullivans



ANNE BAXTER · THOMAS MITCHELL

EDWARD RYAN · TRUDY MARSHALL · JOHN CAMPBELL

JAMES CARDWELL · JOHN ALVIN · SELENA ROYLE

GEORGE OFFERMAN, Jr. · ROY ROBERTS · WARD BOND

Screen Play by Mary C. McCall, Jr.

Story by Edward Doherty and Jules Schermer

THE Sullivans

is one of a family of hits from

20th CENTURY-FOX

which includes



THE LODGER



LIFEBOAT



JANE EYRE



BUFFALO BILL



THE PURPLE HEART



THE SONG OF BERNADETTE

and others as great!

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

$13,000 for 'Gang' In Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 6.—"The Gang's All Here" at the State appears headed for $13,000, while "Government Girl" at the Orpheum was not far behind, with a prospective $12,500. Surprise of the week was Monogram's "Where Are Your Children?", destined for a $7,500 take at the Gopher against a $3,500 average.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5:

"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M)

CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,000).

"Sahara" (Col.)

LYRIC—(1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,200).

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)

GOPHER—(998) (35c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $3,500).

"Thank Your Lucky Stars" (WB) 4 days
"Adventures of Tartu" (M-G-M) 3 days

WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $2,300)

"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)

STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,000).

"Government Girl" (RKO)

ORPHEUM—(2,800) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $12,000).

"Chance of a Lifetime" (Col.) 4 days
"My Son, the Hero" (PRC) 4 days

ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with a midweek change. Gross: $2,400. (Average: $2,500).

Seeks Cancelling of Weis Suit Depositions

ATLANTA, Feb. 6.—Robert Sams, attorney for the eight majors who are defendants in a $218,000 damage suit brought by Frank Weis in behalf of his Savannah Theatre, Savannah, will seek in Federal Court here Tuesday to vacate an order secured by the plaintiff to take pre-trial depositions from 23 industry executives. George Ryan, Boston attorney, also representing the plaintiff, is supposed to start taking the depositions in New York on Feb. 14.

Executives who would be examined include: Adolph Zukor, Nicholas Schenck, Ned Depinet, Neil Agnew, W. F. Rodgers, Tom Connors, Grad Sears, Carl Leserman, William Scully, Norman Collier, J. T. Mills, Andy Smith, Jr., William Sussman, Robert Dann and Willard McKay.

20th Executives See 'Heart' in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Tom Connors, 20th-Fox vice-president in charge of distribution; William J. Kupper, general sales manager; Hal Horne, director of advertising and publicity; and Charles Schlaifer, advertising manager, entrained for New York today after arriving here Saturday by plane to confer with Joseph M. Schenck, executive head of production, and Darryl Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production, on "Purple Heart." They have set an immediate release date. Upon their return to New York they will complete distribution details.

Luncheon for Wanger

Universal will hold a luncheon Wednesday at the Hotel Astor for Walter Wanger, producer of "Gung Ho!", and Charles Moss, managing director of the Criterion Theatre, where the film is playing. Universal executives and the trade press will attend.

"Up in Arms"

(Continued from page 1)

Southwest Pacific, there is a scene on the sun deck of the ship, peopled with Wacs chosen from some of Hollywood's loveliest damsels, lolling about in Technicolored sunsuits obviously the work of an inspired musical comedy designer.

"There was nothing like this in the last war," laconically remarks an ogling soldier.

"There's nothing like it in this one," is his companion's rejoinder.

THE story follows the brief civilian fortunes of Kaye, burdened with every imaginary ailment known to man and fish, but 1-A to his draft board, through camp life, life aboard an Army transport and in and out of the brig, up to his climactic heroics in capturing 20 Japs single-handed. The proceedings are enlivened by a scrambled romance which has Kaye in love with Miss Dowling, while Miss Shore is in love with Kaye, and Dana Andrews with Miss Dowling. It comes out all right despite Kaye's efforts to achieve that objective.

Kaye's musical numbers, by Sylvia Fine and Max Liebman, are tailored to order for the comedian and constitute some of the high spots of the production. Song numbers for Miss Shore and others are by Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler, the best of which are "Now I Know," "Tess' Torch Song" and "All Out for Freedom."

George Mathews and Benny Baker, as enlisted men; Lyle Talbot, as a top sergeant; Louis Calhern, as a colonel, and Sig Arno, as a waiter, make good foils for Kaye's antics and keep the fun moving at double-quick. Other standouts in the production include Elisha Cook, Jr., Walter Catlett and the "Goldwyn Girls." The original screenplay is by Don Hartman, Allen Boretz and Robert Pirosh.

Exhibitors may make promises to their customers concerning the entertainment proof of "Up in Arms" as lavish as is the production itself. It's a real entertainment item that will please the exhibitor as much as his customers.

Running time, 106 minutes. "G."* Release, not set.

SHERWIN KANE

*"G" denotes general classification.

Music Hall Leads in 'Dimes' Collections

The Radio City Music Hall is first among theatres reporting 1944 March of Dimes collections. Gus Eyssell, managing director, reports $16,522, the collection nearly tripling last year's $6,583.18. The Roxy's collections amounted to $14,121, against $6,111 in 1943.

Comparative figures for other Broadway houses are: Capitol, $12,733 ($2,770 in '43); Paramount, $5,492 ($3,196 in '43); Strand, $7,520 ($5,119 in '43); State, $7,134 ($3,237 in '43); Astor, $7,819 ($1,235 in '43); Criterion, $4,174 ($936 in '43); Rivoli, $3,640 ($2,987 in '43); Mayfair, $2,249 ($1,154 in '43); Rialto, $5,492 ($835 in '43).

Rosyl Files Bill on Demand of Skouras

Rosyl Amusement Corp., operating the Cameo Theatre, Jersey City, which is seeking triple damages from eight film companies and five circuits operating in Hudson County, N. J., filed in Federal Court at the weekend a bill of particulars demanded by Skouras Theatres, one of the defendants.

The action alleges a conspiracy to restrain trade.

In the bill of particulars, the plaintiff states in part that it is compelled to play percentage pictures on preferred days, is compelled to rent "shorts" and news reels, and is not consulted as to the run of the Cameo but must accept whatever run is indictated by theatres affiliated with the distributor defendants.

Rosenberg Assumes Columbia Post Today

Frank P. Rosenberg today assumes his new post as Columbia director of advertising, publicity and exploitation, succeeding David A. Lipton, who will be inducted into the Army tomorrow. Lawrence H. Lipskin becomes advertising manager today.

Rosenberg has been with Columbia since August, 1929. He has handled the company's exploitation department for the past two and a half years. Hortense Schorr continues as publicity manager, while Harry K. Williams succeeds Rosenberg as exploitation manager.

Revised Code for Canadian Exchange

(Continued from page 1)

buildings must be not more than two stories high, with elevators and stairways totally enclosed. Covered containers with a capacity of 200 pounds are required for scrap films and not over 500 pounds can be kept overnight inside the film vault. New specifications limit the film vault to 750 cubic feet and roof vents must not face windows or doors less than 50 feet away and fire escapes less than 25 feet away.

No other business can be carried on in the Film Exchange Building and two exits are required for each revising room.

Meyer Fox in Buffalo

BUFFALO, Feb. 6.—Meyer Fox, brother of Buffalo branch manager Phil Fox, has arrived here to join Columbia's booking staff.

Big Industry 4th War Loan Show on Blue

(Continued from page 1)

by state exhibitor chairmen on the broadcast plans with the recommendation being made for exhibitors to sell bonds to patrons during this broadcast.

Meanwhile 600 houses in the New York metropolitan area will admit free today purchasers of "E" bonds, in observance of "Free Movie Day." Theatres have refrained from advertising the event in advance.

In Pittsburgh this week four bond premieres at downtown houses are expected to swell bond sales by more than $10,000,000, M. A. Silver, chairman of the WAC for Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, has announced.

"Free Movie" day in Tennessee has been set for Wednesday, according to Tony Sudekum, president of the Crescent Amusement Co., and chairman of the state bond drive for the industry.

MPA Pledges $25,000

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6.—The Motion Picture Associates here have pledged $25,000 in war bonds during the 4th War Loan Drive. The bonds are to be bought solely by the membership and are to be in addition to the individual member's commitments in their various exchanges.

With one week of the drive completed, the Associates have passed the $13,000 mark. Alfred Davis, president, is in charge.

Walsh to Leave 110 In Atkinson's Hands

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Richard Walsh, IATSE president, announced today that as quickly as new officers are secure in their posts he will release Local 110 from international supervision. This was seen as recognition of Eugene Atkinson whose election last Thursday as business manager makes him nominal head of the local. Atkinson, a member for 30 years, was expelled from the union in 1935 for trying to rid it of its racketeering element after Tommy Maloy, then business manager, was assassinated.

$654,946 for 'Dimes' From Loew's, RKO

During a recent junket for the March of Dimes campaign, Loew's Oscar Doob and RKO's Ed Alperson engaged in a lot of ribbing concerning the virtues of their respective circuits, which have been traditional rivals here. Doob bet Alperson $100 that Loew's would show a greater 'Dimes' increase than RKO. The slide-rule boys reveal that Loew's, with $441,348 collected, showed an increase of 108 per cent, while RKO, with $213,598, showed 99.6 per cent.

March of Dimes is the real winner; Doob has turned over his winnings to that fund.

Monogram Again Sets 44 Features

(Continued from page 1)

before played our pictures," said Monogram's president.

Johnston will preside at Eastern regional meetings inaugurating Monogram's sales drive in honor of his 30 and Steve Broidy's 20 years in the industry. He will also confer with Broidy, Monogram's general sales manager, on post-war plans for Europe.

Of next season's total, Scott Dunlap is slated to produce four; Jeffrey Bernerd, two; the King brothers, three; Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz, eight; Lindsley Parsons, six; Philip N. Krasne and James S. Burkett, two, and Biltmore Productions, one. Already planned are one picture starring Belita, two with Gale Storm, four with the East Side Kids, three with Billy Gilbert, Maxie Rosenbloom and Shemp Howard, and two "Charlie Chan" films with Sidney Toler again in the title role.

Johnny Mack Brown and Raymond Hatton will appear in eight Westerns. A second series of eight is planned but no star has been named as yet.

Monogram Sets Record Advertising Budget

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Largest advertising appropriations in Monogram's history for the year's final nine productions were revealed by Steve Broidy, general sales manager, at a sales meeting of 70 company representatives from 12 cities at the Blackstone Hotel here yesterday and today.

Those attending included: Harry Thomas, Eastern sales manager; Ed Morey, home office executive; Saul J. Francis, special representative, and managers or franchise holders, salesmen and bookers from Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Detroit, Des Moines, Omaha, Denver, Salt Lake City, Kansas City and Oklahoma City.

RWLB Approves WB Raises for 140

Approximately 140 "white-collar" employes of Warner's New York music publishing and warehouse affiliates will receive wage increases, as a result of a Regional War Labor Board decision handed down late last week. The RWLB approved an increase of six per cent to be given now, retroactive to Aug. 10, 1943, an additional five per cent for employes with more than 10 years of service, and an additional five per cent to be given on Aug. 10, 1944. The RWLB also approved job classifications with minimum and maximum salaries set up by the company and the M.P. Office Employees Union, Local 23169, AFL.

Russell M. Moss, who negotiated the wage increases and classifications for MPOE, has resigned his position with Warner Bros. to devote full time to the union's activities as business agent.

To Screen 'Marseille'

"Passage to Marseille," Warners' production starring Humphrey Bogart, will be nationally tradeshown Monday, Feb. 21, Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager, reported here yesterday.

Academy's Nominations for Annual Awards Are Made

(Continued from page 1)

Best performances by actor: Humphrey Bogart in "Casablanca;" Gary Cooper in "For Whom the Bell Tolls;" Paul Lukas in "Watch on the Rhine;" Walter Pidgeon in "Madame Curie;" Mickey Rooney in "The Human Comedy."

Best performance by an actress: Jean Arthur in "The More the Merrier;" Ingrid Bergman in "For Whom the Bell Tolls;" Joan Fontaine in "The Constant Nymph;" Greer Garson in "Madame Curie;" Jennifer Jones in "The Song of Bernadette."

Best Supporting Roles

Best performance by an actor in a supporting role: Charles Bickford in "The Song of Bernadette;" Charles Coburn in "The More the Merrier;" J. Carrol Naish in "Sahara;" Claude Rains in "Casablanca;" Akim Tamiroff in "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Best performance by an actress in a supporting role: Gladys Cooper in "The Song of Bernadette;" Paulette Goddard in "So Proudly We Hail;" Katina Paxinou in "For Whom the Bell Tolls;" Anne Revere in "The Song of Bernadette;" Lucille Watson in "Watch on the Rhine."

Best direction: Michael Curtiz for "Casablanca;" Ernst Lubitsch for "Heaven Can Wait;" Clarence Brown for "The Human Comedy;" George Stevens for "The More the Merrier;" Henry King for "The Song of Bernadette."

Writing Nominations

Best written screenplay: Julius Epstein, Philip G. Epstein and Howard Koch for "Casablanca;" Nunnally Johnson for "Holy Matrimony;" Robert Russell, Frank Ross, Richard Flournoy and Lewis R. Foster for "The More the Merrier;" George Seaton for "The Song of Bernadette;" Dashiell Hammett for "The Watch on the Rhine."

Best original story: Guy Gilpatrick for "Action in the North Atlantic;" Steve Fisher for "Destination, Tokyo;" William Saroyan for "The Human Comedy;" Robert Russell and Frank Ross for "The More the Merrier;" F. Gordon McDonnell for "Shadow of a Doubt."

Form Coast Group To Fight Radicalism

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—The M. P. Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals was organized at a meeting here this weekend attended by approximately 200 writers, producers and directors, with the announced intention of combating "the growing impression that this industry is made up of and dominated by Communists, radicals and crackpots."

Officers elected were: Sam Wood, president; Walt Disney, first vice-president; Cedric Gibbons, second vice-president; Norman Taurog, third vice-president; Louis D. Lighton, secretary; Clarence Brown, treasurer, and George Bruce, executive secretary.

'Foreign Policy' Ready

"Russia's Foreign Policy," latest "World in Action" film made by the National Film Board of Canada, is ready for national release in this country by United Artists.

'Lady' to Play at Established Scales

(Continued from page 1)

ductions will be released as specials, the meeting was told. Pre-release engagements of "Lady" have been set in 15 cities, including the world premiere in Hollywood, Feb. 9, and the New York Paramount Theatre opening, Feb. 22.

Robert M. Gillham told the meeting that an advertising and publicity campaign costing $500,000 had been set for "Lady."

Barney Balaban, Paramount president, and Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president and studio head, also addressed the meeting. Freeman is scheduled to return to the Coast at midweek. Gillham left for the Coast Saturday with stopovers en route.

Charles Cohen Leaves

M-G-M publicity associates of Charles Cohen, trade press contact who resigned effective Friday, presented him with farewell gifts of a war bond and books.

Baehr Signs Altec

Baehr Circuit, Brainerd, Minn., has signed with Altec Service for repair-replacements parts, booth parts and service for its 12 theatres, Altec has announced.

Independents Meet Clark This Week

(Continued from page 1)

little comment has been received from exhibitor sources on the provisions of the decree which he disclosed last week, but it is expected that letters will begin to come in shortly from unorganized theatre operators who have no representatives to send to Washington. Most of the associations are expected to submit their views through delegations which will confer with Clark.

First of the associations to make its views on the proposals known will be the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York, whose representatives, headed by Harry Brandt, president, will meet with Clark Tuesday.

On Wednesday an Allied and unaffiliated organization group headed by Abram F. Myers, Allied general counsel, has an engagement to submit a brief which was approved at last week's meeting in Chicago.

No other engagements with exhibitors have been made for this week, but it is probable that other theatre men may drop into the department from time to time to talk the situation over with Clark.

Place Leaves 20th-Fox

Hermann G. Place has resigned as a director and chairman of the executive committee of 20th Century-Fox. Formerly an officer of Chase National Bank, which recently disposed of its 20th-Fox holdings, Chase is scheduled to rejoin the bank.



FILE COPY
DO NOT

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 27 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1944 TEN CENTS

55 Again Next Year for 'U', Says Scully

Sees No Future Change From Formula Films

"Universal plans to release 55 features during 1944-45, the same number as this season," William A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager, revealed during an interview here yesterday, upon his return from several weeks at the Coast studio conferring on next season's plans and the balance of the current year's product.



Wm. A. Scully

In addition, Universal will release seven Westerns, 81 short subjects and four serials, Scully said. Two special

(*Continued on page 6*)

Gangster Trial Off Pending Bail Appeal

Federal Judge John C. Knox here yesterday marked off the Federal Court trial calendar the mail fraud case against six Chicago members of the Capone gang, recently convicted of extortion from the film industry, and Ralph Pierce, acquitted in the extortion case, pending determination by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals of a motion by the gangsters for bail pending appeal.

James D. C. Murray, chief counsel for the convicted men, said that if the bail application is denied, they will sign waivers and begin serving their 10-year terms.

Crooker Is Eastern MGM Publicity Head

Herbert Crooker has been promoted to Eastern publicity manager at M-G-M, succeeding Lou Smith who recently resigned, according to an announcement yesterday from the office of Howard Dietz, vice-president in charge of advertising and promotion. Crooker had been with the M-G-M home office publicity staff on special out-of-town assignments. He was with Warners for 12 years where he was Eastern publicity director.

Momand and Others Sue Griffiths and Nine Distributors

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 7.—Three independent theatre operators have filed an anti-trust suit in Federal District Court here against Griffith theatre interests, naming distributors and asking damages totaling $606,000.

Plaintiffs are: A. B. Momand, owner of the Odeon Theatre, Shawnee, Okla., J. D. Wineland, Mystic, Picher, Okla., and M. L. Riggs, operator of the State, Vinita, Okla. Another

(*Continued on page 7*)

Attacks Theatre Ban Of Children Under 16

MONTREAL, Feb. 7.—Children under 16 will be permitted in theatres in Quebec if Hellman Swards, defense counsel for the Verdun Palace Theatre and for manager B. A. Garson, can convince the local courts that the statute forbidding the admittance of children is unconstitutional. This is believed to be the first effort ever made to have the enactment declared *ultra vires.*

Declining the jurisdiction of the court when Garson was arraigned recently, Swards announced he would attack the law from three angles when his exceptions are heard. The hearing was fixed for Feb. 18 to permit defense counsel time to prepare a written factum with which he will supplement oral arguments.

Pictures on Way to Prisoners in Germany

London, Feb. 7.—First consignment of films for showing to Allied prisoners in Germany has arrived at Stockholm and is awaiting exchange there with German films that will be shown to German prisoners.

The United Nations' pictures are mostly from Hollywood, with Abbott and Costello, Bob Hope, and Fred Astaire features predominating. The Germans are sending instructional pictures only.

The exchange was arranged through the YMCA World Alliance.

Congress Sends Tax Bill to Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The House and Senate today completed Congressional action on the new tax bill and readied it for transmission to the White House for consideration by President Roosevelt.

Included in the bill was the conference-approved admission tax of one cent on each five cents or major fraction thereof, which it is estimated will bring in an additional $125,500,000 a year. This, however, was only one of a number of tax changes which will

(*Continued on page 7*)

1,200 Buy Bonds in Fourth Loan Tribute to Skouras

The industry had sold about 5,000,000 war bonds from the start of the 4th War Loan Drive on Jan. 18, to the halfway mark, Feb. 1, or not quite 50 per cent of the goal which it set for itself of a bond for every one of the 11,500,000 seats in the nation's theatres, Charles Skouras, national campaign chairman for the industry, reported at a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria here yesterday given in his honor by exhibitors of New York and New Jersey.



Charles Skooras

More than 1,200 persons packed the grand ballroom of the Waldorf and each bought a bond as well as a luncheon ticket in the impressive testimonial to Skouras and his campaign aides. The event coincided with "Free Movie Day," observed in all New York theatres yesterday.

Ted R. Gamble, national director of the Treasury's War Finance Division, stated in addressing the huge gathering:

"I know of no other industry that has done a better job for the Treasury."

Gamble said that on the basis of the 3rd War Loan results and accomplishments to date in the 4th War Loan drive, the Treasury estimates that it will sell another 25 billions of war bonds to the American people this year.

"We will turn to your industry once or twice again this

(*Continued on page 7*)

Exhibitors in Washington to RewriteDecree

Conferences with Clark Today and Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Representatives of a number of independent exhibitor associations will meet here tomorrow in the offices of Abram F. Myers, Allied States' general counsel, to complete a lengthy brief to be submitted Wednesday to Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark, appraising the consent decree proposals of the distributors.

The several organizations which met last week in Chicago will act as a unit in appraising the recommendations of the distributors, and were said by a spokesman here today not only to be agreed on general principles but to be unanimous on the individual provisions, as well.

Few of the distributors' proposals, it was learned, will be given unqualified approval in the brief which is to be filed with Clark, and most of them

(*Continued on page 6*)

Services Today For Arch Bowles

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7.—Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Arch M. Bowles, general manager of Fox West Coast Theatres, in the Halsted Funeral Chapel in San Francisco at 3:00 P. M. Burial will be in Cypress Lawn Mausoleum. Representatives of all phases of the industry, state officials and civic leaders will attend.



Arch M. Bowles

Pallbearers include: Herman Wobber of 20th Century-Fox; Robert McNeil, Golden State Theatres; Oscar Samuels, attorney; W. H. Lollier, FWC; Abe Gore, Los Angeles theatre operator; Cliff Work, Universal; Mike Naify, T. & D. Theatres; Frank Whit-

(*Continued on page 6*)

V.-P. Wallace Lauds Industry on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—Approximately 250 Hollywood notables heard Vice-President Henry Wallace address local members of the Free World Association at the Beverly Hills Hotel Sunday night. Among those present were: Will H. Hays, Gov. Earl Warren, Mayor Fletcher Bowron, Thomas Mann, Walter Wanger, Dudley Nichols, Walter Huston and Ulric Bell.

Earlier, visiting "Woodrow Wilson" sets at the 20th Century-Fox lot, Wallace said: "The American people never will appreciate fully the debt of gratitude they owe the motion picture industry for its contributions to the war effort."

In his address, Vice-President Wallace declared, "We cannot have a free world without free information. You can stop democracy at the fountainhead if press, radio and motion pictures tell only one particular kind of truth. It is vitally important that channels of information be kept clear not for any one particular point of view but for a balanced point of view in terms of all humanity.

"It does seem to be possible that a little higher percentage of pictures can fulfill to some degree the words in the preamble to the Constitution and stay in line with the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man," he added.

OWI Shifts End Davis-Sherwood Tilt

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—A reorganization of the overseas branch of the Office of War Information which involves the resignation of three officials in the New York office and the transfer of Robert Sherwood, director of the branch, to London, today settled a controversy between director Elmer Davis and Sherwood over U. S. propaganda methods.

The three resigning are Joseph Barnes, veteran newspaper man; James P. Warburg, son of the New York banker, and Ed. Johnson, former radio executive, who were charged with responsibility for the dissemination of news abroad.

Sharply criticised broadcasts to Europe last summer precipitated the controversy over reorganization of the service, with Davis taking the issue to the White House, reportedly threatening to resign if President Roosevelt did not affirm his authority to select his own personnel.

Coplan in London

LONDON, Feb. 7.—David H. Coplan has arrived here from Canada to take over the post of British general manager for United Artists, having been transferred from Toronto where he was UA's Canadian sales manager. Coplan will return to Canada when a permanent appointment is made here.

Personal Mention

SPYROS SKOURAS returned to New York last night from the Coast, after the plane in which he was a passenger was grounded in Washington.

•

SAUL ELKINS is enroute from the Warner studio to Washington to confer with Brig.-Gen. Robert Denig, Marine Corps public relations chief, on a short subject on women Marines.

•

CAPT. JOSEPH GOETZ, formerly RKO assistant division manager in Cincinnati, is now an Army major, and assistant chief at Patterson Field, Dayton, O.

•

BARRINGTON C. GAIN, financial adviser to London's J. Arthur Rank, returned yesterday from the Coast.

•

LEWIS MILESTONE, director, will arrive today from Hollywood for a three weeks' stay.

•

LOU MILDER, manager of Warner's Colony, Cleveland, is vacationing at Hot Springs, Ark.

•

BARNEY ROSE, Universal New England district manager, was a recent New Haven visitor.

•

PAT POWERS, 20th-Fox exploitation representative at the home office, is in Baltimore.

•

BILL RESNICK of the Emerson Yorke studio here has returned from Arizona.

•

F. RAIMO, manager of Warner's Rialto, South Norwalk, Conn., has been inducted into the Army.

•

JESSE L. STERN, president of Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors, is in Washington.

•

ARTHUR KELLY, United Artists vice-president, arrived in New York over the weekend from London.

BARNEY BALABAN, Paramount president, is in Rochester, Minn., where MRS. BALABAN is hospitalized.

•

ALEX L. HILLMAN, publisher of *Movieland Magazine*, and his assistant, RICHARD H. HOFFMAN, returned yesterday from a three-day trip to Washington.

•

WILLIAM HEINEMAN, Samuel Goldwyn and James Cagney representative, is spending several days in Cleveland conferring with BERNARD KRANZE, RKO branch manager there.

•

CPL. FRANK RAMSEY, former assistant manager of Warner's Strand, Hartford, has been discharged from the station hospital in Tampa, Fla.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M Eastern and Southern sales manager, is back at his desk recovered from his recent illness.

•

M. GOLDSTEIN, M-G-M New Haven branch manager, returned yesterday to his headquarters after a home office visit.

•

BILL RODGERS, JR., son of WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president, will be inducted into the Army at Camp Upton Friday.

•

A. J. O'KEEFE, Universal Western division sales manager, returned yesterday from a trip of several weeks through his territory.

•

DR. ALEXANDER GALPERSON, visiting distribution representative of Two Cities Films, London, returned to New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

SIDNEY SWIRSKY, Columbia New Haven booker, is the father of a seven-pound girl born Feb. 3 at the New Haven Hospital.

•

RUBE JACKTER, Columbia assistant general sales manager, will leave tomorrow for a Florida vacation.

To Set Collection Date for Red Cross

The opening and closing dates of the industry's special drive to aid the Red Cross 1944 war fund campaign will be set shortly, S. H. Fabian, theatres division chairman, announced here yesterday.

Last year the industry functioned in a 'mopping-up' position assignment, after a house-to-house canvass had been completed, and raised $4,224,000 with an all-out one-week effort managed by Barney Balaban. The 1944 canvass will run through March. Collections in theatres are expected to again supply the greatest sum.

Carr Assumes for Rank

LONDON, Feb. 7.—E. T. Carr today opened headquarters here in the offices of General Film Distributors for the J. Arthur Rank interests. No disclosure was made of the specific status which Carr will assume.

Schlager in a New Film and Play Unit

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—American Films Corp., organized as a picture-and-play producing setup, at its first stockholders meeting here, elected James A. Smith and Charles L. Strouss, Phoenix, Ariz., president and vice-president, respectively; Henry Herzbrun, second vice-president; William Groasman, treasurer; Sig Schlager, general manager. Schlager pointed out that the company is distinct from Producers Corp. of America.

'SRO' Is 35% Above

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The premiere of Paramount's "Standing Room Only" at Loew's Palace Theatre here recently did 35 per cent better than average for the house, Carter Barron, Loew's Theatres division manager, reported.

Coming Events

Feb. 8—Universal luncheon for Julien Duvivier, 21 Club, New York.
Feb. 11—PRC sales convention, Hotel St. Moritz, New York.
Feb. 15—Warner stockholders' annual meeting, Wilmington, Del.
March 13—Rally for Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People of Europe, Madison Square Garden, New York.
March 14—Loew's annual stockholders' meeting, New York.

4 Columbus Houses In Single Transfer

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 7.—Leo Yassenoff, owner of the F. & Y. Building Service, and his partnership associates, have taken over the neighborhood Arlington, Westmont, Southland and Boulevard theatres here from Mrs. Marie H. MacDonald, who has operated the houses since the death of her husband. Purchase price was not disclosed.

Yassenoff, who previously acquired the Cleves and Beechwold, announced that William O. Queen would continue as manager of the four houses.

Calloway Hurt in Crash

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 7.—H. C. Calloway, booker for Indianapolis Cooperative Theatres, and operator of the Douglas Theatre here, suffered serious head and face injuries in a recent automobile accident.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
Joan Fontaine • Orson Welles
"JANE EYRE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
GALA STAGE SHOW
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
In Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
"THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS"
ANNA STEN
KENT SMITH

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Rosalind RUSSELL
Brian AHERNE
in
"What A Woman!"
In Person
Marion Hutton
Extra!
WESSON BROS.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent: Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.



GOOD NEWS FROM THE No. 1 PIN-UP BOY!



M-G-M TOPS ANNUAL "10 BEST SHORTS" POLL!

Fame Magazine (*Quigley Publications*) Annual Short Subject Exhibitor Poll gives 3 out of 10 Best to Leo, Jr. They are: PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES, M-G-M CARTOONS and JOHN NESBITT'S PASSING PARADE.



"THIS IS TOMORROW" NATIONWIDE TRIUMPH!

John Nesbitt's Passing Parade "This Is Tomorrow" wins Special Citation from National Board of Review, is endorsed in the nationally syndicated column "My Day" by Eleanor Roosevelt and gets trade reviews like these: FILM DAILY says: "A booking that means something. Merits widest attention." BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE: "It will pay dividends, excellent, golden exploitation."



BENCHLEY, PETE SMITH AND OTHERS COMING!

More sparkling shorts on the way: "THE KID IN UPPER FOUR," heart-warming dramatization of the newspaper ad that stirred the nation. "SHOE SHINE BOY," 2-Reel Special introducing a NEW musical technique. PETE SMITH'S Specialty "HOME MAID," a honey! M-G-M Technicolor Cartoon "Zoot Cat" (*even funnier than "Baby Puss"*). ROBERT BENCHLEY in "WHY DADDY?" Our motto: Benchley for belly-laughs!

M-G-M THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT!

"Keep Up the Attack! 4th WAR LOAN!"

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 7

HOWARD DIETZ will leave here Friday for the East.

•

Producers Corp. of Amerca has bought "O'Brien's Navy," an original by Commander Dan Campbell, whose ship is stationed at San Pedro, Cal., and who will act as technical consultant when production, under Harry Joe Brown, begins on April 1, ahead of the previously scheduled "The Greeks Had a Word for It." "O'Brien's Navy" will be PCA's second United Artists release following "Knickerbocker Holiday."

•

Donald O'Connor was married yesterday in Tia Juana to Gwen Carter, a non-professional; he reported today to Fort McArthur for induction into the armed forces.

•

With openings set for the first week in March, 20th-Fox is rushing through 500 prints of "The Purple Heart." Dates have already been set in 350 keys.

•

Columbia today signed Tex Richmond as a producer and assigned him the musical, "Meet Miss Bobby Socks."

•

Scott R. Dunlap will produce four top-bracket features for Monogram's 1944-45 schedule.

Wood Outlines Aims Of New Alliance

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—"Pictures should be made for entertainment and education in the American way, not to sell Communism or Fascism," declared producer-director Sam Wood, president of the new Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals, the formation of which, over the weekend, was reported in yesterday's MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

"The time has come," Wood added, "for people to have an organization to counteract pressure put on them by these highly organized groups."

A statement of principles, issued by the Alliance at the formation meeting, declared in part: "We find ourselves in sharp revolt against the rising tide of Communism, Fascism and kindred beliefs that seek by subversive means to undermine and change this way of life. As members of the motion picture industry we must face and accept especial responsibility. Motion pictures are inescapably one of the world's greatest forces for influencing public thought and opinion both at home and abroad. We refuse to permit totalitarian-minded groups to pervert this medium into an instrument for the dissemination of un-American ideas.

"We pledge ourselves to fight with every means at our organized command any effort of any group or individual to divert the loyalty of the screen from the free America that gave it birth, and to dedicate our own work in the fullest possible measure to the preservation of American standards."



B'way Business Is Good; $110,000 For 'Jane Eyre'

Broadway key theatres are recording impressive grosses this week with continued favorable weather seen as an important factor for both leading holdover bills and new entries. Radio City Music Hall expects $110,000 for the first week of "Jane Eyre" and a stage show, with $72,000 taken in on the initial four days. The bill will hold over for a second week.

Following the first two record weeks for "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and a stage show featuring Johnny Long and his band, with Hazel Scott, the Paramount will gross $85,000 on the third week and the bill will hold for a fourth starting tomorrow. The third and final week's gross of "The Lodger" and a stage show presenting the "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street" is estimated at $74,000. Twentieth Century-Fox's "The Sullivans" and a stage show headlined by Martha Raye will open at the Roxy tomorrow.

"A Guy Named Joe" and a stage show at the Capitol is headed for $67,000 in the seventh and final week. M-G-M's "Song of Russia" will open at the Capitol on Thursday with a sepia stage show headlining the Mills Brothers, Buck and Bubbles and Lionel Hampton's band. The Strand's sixth and final week of "Destination Tokyo" will yield approximately $45,000. "In Our Time" and a stage bill presenting Ina Ray Hutton and her orchestra will open Friday.

'Bernadette' Big Draw

"The Song of Bernadette" is continuing to do capacity business at the Rivoli with $60,000 quoted as the second week's gross following a record $65,000 for the first week. The picture will hold. "Gung Ho!" will do approximately $36,000 in its second week at the Criterion and will hold. Business also continues to hold well at the Astor with "Lifeboat" expected to gross $25,000 in its fourth week and the picture will hold. United Artists' "Three Russian Girls" is doing about $21,000 in its first week at the Palace and will likewise hold over.

The eighth week for "Desert Song" at the Hollywood is expected to yield $16,000 and the picture will hold over for a ninth and final week. "Where Are Your Children?" is expected to yield the Globe $15,000 in its fourth week and will hold for a fifth. "The North Star" will do approximately $14,300 in its 14th week at the New Victoria and will hold over. The Rialto expects to gross $7,600 on the second week of "Return of the Vampire" with "Calling Dr. Death" tentatively set to open on Friday.

Scollard to Appeal Boston 48-Hr. Week

Following the War Manpower Commission's weekend announcement of a minimum 48-hour work week for Boston, C. J. Scollard, Paramount executive who handles this phase of labor relations for major film companies, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday he would file an exemption appeal on behalf of theatres and exchanges in that area.

Hollywood In 4-Film Spurt; 42 in Work

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—Eight new pictures went before the cameras during the past week, while five finished, to leave the production mercury registering 42 in work for the week. This was an increase over the previous week when six started, and seven finished, leaving 38 in work. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "Mission Thirty-six" with John Carradine, Larry Parks, Jeanne Bates, Osa Massen, Jonathan Hale, Ivan Triessault, Trevor Bardette.

Shooting: "Mr. Winkle Goes to War," "The Girl in the Case," "Pilebuck," "At Night We Dream."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "National Velvet," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross," "Dragon Seed."

Monogram

Started: "Detective Kitty Kelly" with Jean Parker, Edward Gargan, Veda Ann Borg and Tim Ryan.

Paramount

Started: "Practically Yours" with Claudette Colbert, Fred MacMurray, Cecil Kellaway, Robert Watson, Charles Dingle, Betty Rhodes, Hillary Brooke, Rosemary DeCamp, Tom Powers.

Shooting: "Bring on the Girls," "And Now Tomorrw," "Road to Utopia," "Incendiary Blonde."

Finished: "One Body Too Many."

P.R.C.

Started: "Guns of the Lawless" with Dave O'Brien, Jim Newhill, Guy Wilkerson and Jennifer Holt.

Shooting: "Dixie Showboat," "Minstrel Man."

RKO-Radio

Shooting: "Manhattan Serenade" (formerly "Frank Sinatra No. 2"), "One Exciting Night."

Finished: "Marine Raiders."

Republic

Started: "Candlelight in Lisbon" with Vera Hruba Ralston, Eric von Stroheim, Richard Arlen, Mona Barrie, Otto Kruger.

Shooting: "The Man from Frisco," "Cowboy and the Senorita."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Keys of the Kindom" with Gregory Peck, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Vincent Price, Roddy McDowall, Ruth Nelson, Helen Craig and Edmund Gwenn.

Shooting: "Sweet and Lowdown," "Wilson," "In the Meantime, Darling" (formerly "I Married a Soldier").

United Artists

Shooting: "The Hairy Ape" (Levey); "Song of the Open Road" (Rogers); "Sensations of 1944" (Stone); "Since You Went Away" (Vanguard).

Universal

Started: "The Climax" with Susanna Foster, Turhan Bey and Boris Karloff.

Shooting: "The Invisible Man's Revenge," "Christmas Holiday."

Finished: "Moon Over Las Vegas," "The Scarlet Claw."

Warners

Shooting: "Cinderella Jones," "Make Your Own Bed," "Mr. Skeffington," "My Reputation," "The Horn Blows at Midnight," "Janie."



"Boxoffice title." *Showmen's Trade Review*

"Fast action." *Harrison's Reports*

"Corio is gorgeous." *Los Angeles Times*

"Considerable fun." *Variety*

"Designed solely for laughs." *Film Daily*

"Entertaining." *The Exhibitor*

"Delights the eye." *Showmen's Trade Review*

MONOGRAM PICTURES

presents

Miss Ann Corio

in

"*The* SULTAN'S DAUGHTER"

with

TIM and IRENE

Charles BUTTERWORTH

Fortunio BONANOVA

EDWARD NORRIS

Freddie FISHER and His Orchestra

Produced by
Philip N. Krasne and James S. Burkett

Directed by Arthur Dreifuss

Original Screenplay by Milton Raison and Tim Ryan

55 Again Next Year for 'U', Says Scully

(Continued from page 1)

features will be released next season, the same as this season, but the company plans to increase Technicolor films from three to eight, according to Scully. "Technicolor is proving an added box office impetus," he said.

"The exhibitor's chance for permanent prosperity and permanent good will with the public is to provide as much diversity in his theatres as is humanly possible," Scully declared. "The future of the motion picture business, whether it's post-war or any other time, will be based on those formulae that have been traditionally successful," he added. No definite plans have been formulated for the company's sales meetings, but they will be held in May, according to Scully.

List of Completed Films

Among the pictures completed or shortly to be completed for release during 1943-44 are "Chip Off the Old Block" and "This Is Life," both featuring Donald O'Connor; Walter Wanger's "Ladies Courageous"; Charles K. Feldman's "Follow the Boys"; "Christmas Holiday", starring Deanna Durbin and Gene Kelly; "Cobra Woman," in Technicolor, starring Maria Montez; "Primitive Man"; "Mystery of the Old Dark House," featuring Olsen and Johnson; and a couple of Abbott and Costello films. Already contemplated for 1944-45 release are "Carolina," a Technicolor musical Western starring Deanna Durbin, and "Climax," with Susanna Foster and Boris Karloff.

Universal plans to start 1944-45 selling in June, Scully stated. He revealed that sales this year are about the same as last year. After holding conferences with exhibitors he predicted that business is still on the upswing. Regarding the public not wanting war pictures he pointed to the business being done by "Gung Ho!," the company's current release dealing with the Marine raid on Makin.

"Universal does not presently contemplate releasing any British-made product during 1944-45," Scully said.

Monogram
announces
FOR
CURRENT PRODUCTION
IN HIS STEPS
Based on the Novel of the
Same Title by
Charles M. Sheldon

Review

"The Impostor"

(Universal)

JULIEN DUVIVIER has given "The Impostor" the unique "finish" that is Duvivier. He wrote, directed and produced and the result is a moving story, keyed to please especially those who seek something away from routine drama. Though somewhat weighty in substance, "The Impostor" is all-absorbing. It demands concentrated attention of an audience. Jean Gabin executes the leading role with sincerity and is ably supported by a well-chosen cast including Richard Whorf, Allyn Joselyn, Peter Van Eyck, Ellen Drew and Eddie Quillan.

Gabin, a fugitive from French authorities, robs a dead soldier—Maurice La Farge, of uniform and papers and joins a company of what later becomes a part of the Free French Army. From then on the story is that of the small company of men, who leave their fallen homeland to fight with the Allies in Africa. Gabin, embittered at first, learns that he is fighting for something greater than himself and he becomes a leader in the outfit. He gains many friends and, credited with La Farge's record, is made an officer. Ellen Drew, La Farge's fiancee, comes on the scene and discovers the fraud; so does a former associate of the dead man. Gabin confesses, is court-martialed and demoted. Desiring to do something to compensate for his past he goes to the front lines and dies a hero after finishing a German machine-gun nest.

Fine photographic effects are achieved by Paul Ivano and John F. Fulton. Dimitri Tiomkin is credited with the musical score which adds much to the production. Gabin, Whorf and John Qualen contribute excellent performances. "The Imposter" is a tale of courage and hope, which Duvivier has handled well, from original story to finished product.

Running time 94½ mins. Release date Feb. 11. "G."*

HELEN MCNAMARA

*"G" denotes general classification.

Exhibitors' Decree Meets Start Today

(Continued from page 1)

will be criticized for failing to give the independent exhibitors all that the authors of the brief believe they are entitled to. Practically all of the proposals will be discussed in the brief, which is expected to be voluminous, and specific recommendations will be made for changes desired.

A major subject of attack will be the distributors' arbitration proposals which, it it held, do not cover many of the points important to exhibitors.

The I.T.O.A. of New York is scheduled to be the first organization to present its views of the proposed decree to Clark. A delegation headed by Harry Brandt is expected at the Justice Building here tomorrow for that purpose. The I.T.O.A. will be followed on Wednesday by the Independent delegation consisting of representatives of Allied, the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, the Unaffiliated Exhibitors of New York, and the MPTO of Virginia. In the latter delegation will be: Abram F. Myers, H. A. Cole, W. F. Crockett and Robert H. Poole.

The MPTOA has not yet completed its appraisal of the decree provisions, preparatory to setting a meeting with Clark.

R.A.F. Men Guests

BOSTON, Feb. 7.—Reginald Francis and Geoff Hill, formerly with 20th-Fox in London and now in the Royal Air Force, were guests at a recent reception given by the local 20th-Fox office. The aviators remained here several days and were entertained by Matty Simson, chief salesman; Sam Berg, chief booker, and Morris Schmalzback, chief auditor.

Services Today For Arch Bowles

(Continued from page 1)

beck, M-G-M; Charles Koerner, RKO and Mell Hulling, Monogram.

Bowles, who died in St. Francis Hospital Sunday following an illness of several months, is survived by his widow and two sons, Phillip and Tom.

Bowles began as an exhibitor in Livermore, Cal., and then worked for Pathe as a salesman, joining Turner and Dahnken Theatres later, he advanced to general manager of that circuit. In 1942 he became general manager of Fox West Coast after serving as division manager over Northern California. Bowles was also chairman of the board of governors of the California Theatres Association.

Spyros Skouras, president of 20th-Fox, declared in New York yesterday that "The industry has suffered an irreparable loss in the passing of Arch Bowles, who lived to serve his fellow men and who has left a permanent legacy of constructive influence upon every branch of our business."

Charles P. Skouras, head of National-Fox West Coast Theatres, declared, "Arch Bowles was an encouraging spirit in every endeavor. He was respected and honored by men and women in every station of life."

Edelman Rejoins W.B.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—Louis F. Edelman will rejoin Warners as producer, a post he left three years ago, on completion of his contract at Columbia. Before starting his first picture, he will tour South America for two months on special assignments.

Schenck and Rubin Sell Loew Shares; Four Get 'U' Stock

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 7.—Light trading by officers and directors of film corporations in the securities of their own companies was reported tonight by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The broadest activity shown in the latest summary for December, was a series of sales whereby Nicholas M. Schenck disposed of 6,500 shares of Loew's common stock, leaving him with 1,017 shares. In the same company, J. Robert Rubin sold 800 shares of common, leaving him with 2,065 shares.

A report on Universal Pictures showed the receipt of 5,000 common voting trust certificate warrants by J. Cheever Cowdin as compensation, giving him a total of 15,000; also the receipt of 3,000 warrants each, also as compensation, by Charles D. Prutzman, William A. Scully and Cliff Work, bringing Prutzman's holdings to 14,900 and those of the other two to 18,000 each. Work was shown also to have sold 2,500 common voting trust certificates during December, his entire holdings in that class of security.

Report on Columbia

Other transactions, covering delayed reports, show the disposition of 200 shares of Columbia Pictures common stock by gift by Harry Cohn in October and the purchase of 1,100 shares in November, for a total of 96,734 shares, and the disposition of 35 shares, by gift, by Abraham Schneider, in December, reducing his holdings to 1,749 shares. The other reports covered the purchase of 276 shares of Loew's Boston Theatres common by Loew's, Inc., giving it 120,335 shares, and the disposition by gift of 750 shares of Paramount common stock by Stanton Griffis, leaving him with 5,250 shares, and 100 Paramount shares by Maurice Newton, leaving him with 10,565 shares.

Columbia Co-workers Honor Dave Lipton

On the eve of his induction into the army, David A. Lipton, Columbia's director of advertising-publicity and exploitation, was guest of honor yesterday at a luncheon given by 40 members of the department at Hickory House. Lipton was presented with a watch and a scroll.

Among those who attended were: N. B. Spingold, Frank P. Rosenberg, Lawrence A. Lipskin, Harry McWilliams, Hortense Schorr, Sylvia Kossack, Jack Meyers, Herbert Smith, David O'Malley, Edward Schwartz, Sidney Alexander, Sigmund Maitles, Robert A. Ferguson, Miriam Teichner, George Ettinger, Raymond Murray, and others.

Flatow, Composer, Dies

Leon Flatow, 54, composer of many songs, including "The Lady in Red," "Everybody Loves a Jazz Band," "I Must Go to Moscow" and "New Kind of Man," died here late last week in Neurological Institute after a long illness. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Elsie Hart Flatow; a brother, Ralph, and a sister, Mrs. Carrie Kalmuk.

Momand and Others Sue Griffiths and Nine Distributors

(Continued from page 1)

action against Griffith interests by Momand has been tried, and a decision in that is expected to be handed down in Federal court here in the near future.

The new suit charges that Griffith Amusement Co. and Griffith Southwestern Theatres, Inc., have conspired with the distributors named to withhold product from the plaintiffs. L. C. Griffith and H. J. Griffith, the latter the new president of Southwestern, Dallas, are named as defendants, along with the following distributors: Paramount, Loew's, RKO Radio, Warners, 20th Century-Fox, Columbia, Universal, United Artists and Republic.

"I fully expect to have our petition amended later with more independents brought in as plaintiffs," Momand said.

The suit asks that the plaintiffs be permitted to license pictures from the defendant distributors on equal terms with the Griffith companies. It further asks that they be given opportunity to license as many pictures of the same grade and classification and on the same run as the Griffith outlets in each of the three towns mentioned.

Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., of which Momand is president, asks damages of $356,576; Mystic Theatre, Inc., owned by Wineland, asks $213,600, and Riggs seeks $35,950.

Crescent Records Sent To U. S. Supreme Court

NASHVILLE, Feb. 7.—With Judge Elmer D. Davies approving the transfer, attaches of the local U. S. District Court and the office of defense attorney William Waller were finally able to get the appeal records in the Crescent Amusement anti-trust case off to Washington for the Supreme Court hearing before today's deadline. Receipt of the records in Washington has been acknowledged by Charles Elmore Cropley, clerk of the U. S. Supreme Court.

This transfer came only a few days short of a year since Judge Davies rendered a decision in which Crescent and its affiliates were found guilty of violating the anti-trust law and United Artists of "combining" with certain local distributors in the Crescent area to "eliminate independent competition."

Bergman to Address AMPA on Feb. 24

"What Has Happened to Advertising in the Theatre" will be the subject of a talk to be given by Maurice Bergman, Universal director of advertising-publicity at a luncheon of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers at Hotel Edison here Feb. 24, President Vincent Trotta announced at the weekend. Vice-president James V. Zabin, Cinema Circuit executive, will be master of ceremonies.

Exhibitors who have been invited include: Si Fabian, Joseph Bernhard, Max Cohen, Leonard Goldenson, C. C. Moskowitz, William White, Fred Schwartz, Samuel Rinzler, Leo Brecher, Robert Weitman, Walter Meinhold and Harry Brandt.

1,200 Buy Bonds in Fourth Loan Tribute to Skouras

(Continued from page 1)

year for help," he said, adding that he believed it would be a good idea, based on the industry's performance in the current drive, to retain the present industry campaign "team" for the next one.

"The Treasury is grateful to your industry for the wonderful job it has done and is doing for us," Gamble said. He paid tribute to Ned E. Depinet, chairman of the distributors' division, among others, for current results in the drive, and to theatres, particularly the 6,500 that are issuing agents for war bonds.

Gamble reported that more than 11 billions in bonds, or about 85 per cent of the national goal, have been sold to date in the present drive, which ends next Tuesday. Sales of war bonds since May, 1941, are equivalent to eight bonds for each person in the United States with an income, he said.

Reports Given

Reports on current activities in the 4th Loan drive were made by Depinet, Si Fabian, B. V. Sturdivant and F. H. (Rick) Ricketson. Harry Brandt was toastmaster. Approximately 50 wounded service men from Halloran General Hospital were luncheon guests.

At the conclusion of the luncheon an engraved silver tray was presented to Skouras by the New York and New Jersey exhibitors, and silver cigarette cases, suitably engraved, were given to Sturdivant and Ricketson.

Seated at the dais at the luncheon were: Francis S. Harmon, Edward C. Raftery, Jack Cohn, Depinet, Arthur Mayer, Ricketson, Fabian, Gamble, Brandt, Skouras, Capt. M. M. Witherspoon, Alperson, Sturdivant, Stanton Griffis, N. Peter Rathvon, George J. Schaefer, Don Jacocks, Leon Fromkess, Claude Lee, Si Seadler, Leonard Goldenson, Malcolm Kingsberg, Herman Robbins, C. C. Moskowitz, Jack Alicoate, Harry Kalmine, David Weinstock, Lewis Schine, Harry Lowenstein, Randolph Burgess, Neville L. Ford, John Manning, Jules Brulatour, Fred Schwartz, Charles Skouras, Jr., Lucy Monroe, James Sauter, Max A. Cohen, Steve Broidy, Robert Selig and A. J. Krappmann.

78,000 Bonds Sold in Southern California

Fourth War Loan bond sales in 637 Southern California theatres thus far total 78,000 individual bonds, according to a report received at national headquarters here from Dave Bershon, exhibitor chairman for that area. The returns came from both independent and circuit operators.

Two key bond premieres, one at Grauman's Chinese in Hollywood yesterday and the other at Warner's Beverly Hills Theatre Thursday will increase this total considerably, Bershon reports.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 182 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

GLENN GROVE, Richmond Theatre, Rockingham, N. C.

JOHN R. KRIER, Paramount Theatre, Provo, Utah.

A. R. BOWEN, Carson Theatre, Carson City, Nev.

EDITH EVANS, Strand Theatre, Newport, Ark.

ABE H. BORISKY, Capitol Theatre, Chattanooga, Tenn.

JOHN B. LEVINSON, Capitol Theatre, Calexico, Cal.

JERRY E. HAYES, Rivoli Theatre, Beatrice, Neb.

F. D. SCHRIBER, State Theatre, Nashua, N. H.

SAUL S. HAYES, Strand Theatre, Nashua, N. H.

DON SHEEDY, Fox Theatre, Billings, Mont.

GEORGE PAPPAS, Circle Theatre, Indianapolis, Ind.

WARREN L. FAUST, Fox Theatre, Phoenix, Ariz.

WILBUR WILLIAMS, Boulder Theatre, Boulder, Col.

RUSSELL W. SCHULTE, America Theatre, Casper, Wyo.

F. L. BOWERS, State Theatre, Cambridge, O.

WALTER LEE CASEY, JR., Rex Theatre, Bonners Ferry, Ida.

Congress Sends Tax Bill to Roosevelt

(Continued from page 1)

affect the film industry, others being increased rates on electric light bulbs and tubes, local telephone bills and long-distance telephone and telegraph messages, transportation tickets, letters for local delivery and air mail and parcel post.

As passed by Congress, raising only about one-fourth of the $10,500,000,000 which he asked, the bill is known to be unsatisfactory to President Roosevelt. However, it is not believed that he will veto it, although he may refuse to sign it and let it become law without his approval.

Air Previews Set for 5 Paramount Films

Radio previews of five new Paramount pictures will be given on Kate Smith's CBS program beginning Feb. 25 when the program starts to originate from California, according to arrangements set by Robert M. Gillham, director of advertising and publicity.

Previews of "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and "The Hitler Gang" will be held on Feb. 25; "Standing Room Only," Mar. 3; "Uninvited," Mar. 10, and "Hour Before the Dawn," Mar. 17.

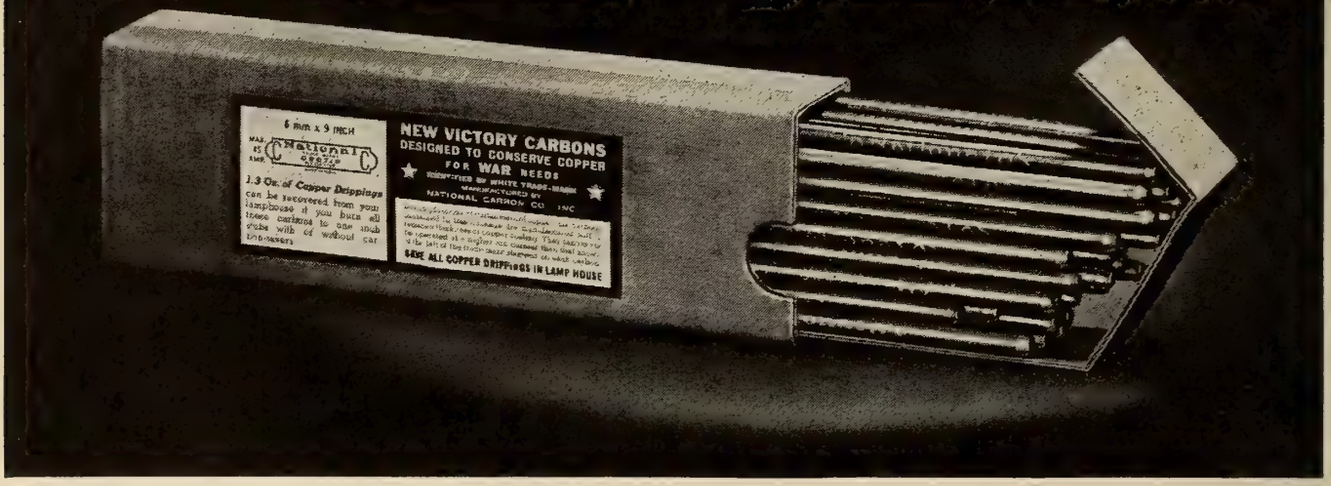
'Seabees' Reception

DES MOINES, Feb. 7.—A press-preview and reception will be held here tomorrow for Republic's "The Fighting Seabees," which opens a pre-release engagement at the Orpheum here Feb. 12.



KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK WITH YOUR

VICTORY CARBONS



EXHIBITORS and projectionists across America are to be congratulated for their splendid contribution to the war effort by conserving and recovering much of the copper plating of their "National" Victory Carbons . . . copper that would have been completely lost but for their cooperation.

Naturally the copper coating on Victory Carbons is as thin as practicable, because copper is a vital war material. This calls for strict maintenance of arc current within the recommended range, and careful adjustment of the carbon feed ratio.

Satisfied theater audiences everywhere are testimony to the constant attention being given to the current and feed factors.

In addition, tons of copper drippings and copper plate stripped from carbon stubs have been turned back into production channels as your Government urged.

Your continued cooperation in saving copper is still of utmost importance, for copper needs go right on expanding as America's war production grows. You've done a splendid job. Keep up the good work!

As a reminder, check the table below for carbon trim and current values specified for your equipment. A bulletin describing completely the operation of the Victory High Intensity Carbons will be sent promptly on request. Write for it today.

★ *BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS* ★

The word "National" is the registered trade-mark of National Carbon Company, Inc.

RECOMMENDED TRIM AND RANGE OF ARC CURRENT FOR LAMPS USING COPPER COATED, HIGH INTENSITY, PROJECTOR CARBONS

Type of Arc	*Arc Current—Amperes*	*New Victory Carbons—Size and Type*
"1 Kw" High Intensity, A. C.	52-66	7 mm x 9 inch H.I., A. C. Carbons in both holders
"1 Kw" High Intensity, D. C.	40-42	7 mm x 12 inch or 14 inch "Suprex" Positive 6 mm x 9 inch "Orotip" C Negative
Simplified High Intensity, D. C. with *adjustable* feed ratio	42-45	7 mm x 12 inch or 14 inch "Suprex" Positive 6 mm x 9 inch "Orotip" C Negative
Simplified High Intensity, D. C. with *fixed* feed ratio	42-45	7 mm x 12 inch or 14 inch "Suprex" Positive 7 mm x 9 inch "Orotip" C Negative
Simplified High Intensity, D. C.	56-65	8 mm x 12 inch or 14 inch "Suprex" Positive 7 mm x 9 inch "Orotip" C Negative

NATIONAL CARBON COMPANY, INC.

Unit of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation

UCC

CARBON PRODUCTS DIVISION, CLEVELAND 1, OHIO

General Offices

30 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Branch Sales Offices

New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago, San Francisco

WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 28 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1944 TEN CENTS

Clark Hears Complaints of Independents

Arbitration Relief Is One Need Stressed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—New York independent exhibitors today told Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark of their views on the distributors' consent decree proposals as an inter-association group met a mile away to draft other proposals for submission tomorrow.

Headed by Harry Brandt and including Mel Albert, Max Cohen and Leon Rosenblatt, representatives of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York, told Clark that the proposals do not conform to their ideas of the relief which should be granted, particularly with respect to arbitration, it was learned.

The conference lasted less than a half hour, but a number of provisions which they declared unsatisfactory were cited, and it was urged that the Government demand improvements before taking the decree to the Federal Court for approval.

Meanwhile, Col. H. A. Cole of Allied, Robert Poole of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, Jesse Stern of the Unaffiliated Exhibitors of New York

(*Continued on page 9*)

RKO Circuit Forces 'Tokyo' from Strand

The RKO metropolitan circuit is ejecting Warners' "Destination Tokyo" from Warners' Strand on Broadway at the end of a six weeks engagement tomorrow, whereas Warners indicated a desire to extend the run four additional weeks.

The picture had been sold some time ago to the RKO circuit for a city-wide opening on Washington's Birth-

(*Continued on page 9*)

J. J. Unger Named To UA Sales Staff

J. J. Unger, former Paramount sales executive, has joined the United Artists sales staff, Carl Leserman, general sales manager, announced here yesterday. Unger's duties will be defined soon, Leserman said.

Unger left Paramount a year ago after an 18-year association with that company, during which he rose from manager of the New York exchange to Eastern sales manager.

54 Stars Took War Bond Message to 50,000,000

After two-and-a-half weeks of bond selling, 54 screen stars have finished nationwide tours as part of the industry's 4th War Loan Drive. They rolled up a record of sales, carrying a message for the purchase of extra bonds to 213 cities, totalling more than 50,000,000 population, and to dozens of smaller towns and suburbs, the WAC bond committee said here yesterday.

No accurate total figures on bonds sold is available as yet, but results by local war finance groups indicate this to have been the most successful star participation since the start of war loans.

Since Jan. 28 the 34 actors who served as "Bondbardiers,' and the 20 who headed "Bond Battalions" have appeared in small groups in all important cities, they talked to hundreds of thousands of workmen and to civic gatherings in every state.

Credit for the tours goes to Fred Stein, assistant national campaign director for the industry, who had over-

(*Continued on page 12*)

Phila. WMC Hearing On 'Essential' Plea

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 8.—The Regional War Manpower Commission held hearings here today on a local industry petition to declare film exchanges as "locally needed establishments."

At the first hearing of its kind ever held within the industry, representa-

(*Continued on page 12*)

Kelly Resigns from United Artists; May Join J. Arthur Rank

Arthur W. Kelly yesterday tendered his resignation as vice-president of United Artists to members of the company's board in New York, effective Friday.



Arthur Kelly

He will continue as a director of the company.

Kelly declined to reveal his future plans but said he will have an announcement to make this morning. It is expected that Kelly will announce his affiliation with the J. Arthur Rank interests of London, probably as an American representative for Rank pending completion of the latter's plans for either acquiring control of an American distributing organization or establishing his own company here.

Kelly returned to New York last weekend from a London visit. On Jan. 27, MOTION PICTURE DAILY re-

(*Continued on page 12*)

Kansas, Nebraska First to Report Need for More Theatre Facilities

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—Additional film theatres are needed at a number of points in Kansas and Nebraska, it was indicated today in a field-office report received by George McMurphey, chief of the Office of Civilian Requirements recreation section.

A preliminary survey, McMurphey said, indicated a possible need for theatres at Kansas City, Parsons, Endora, De Soto, Scribner, Hastings, McCook and Wichita, Kan.; Bellevue and Alliance, Nebr., and Pine Bluff, Ark. An application for a new theatre already has been approved for Wichita and one is pending for Parsons, Kan.

McMurphey explained that the report covered merely "possibilities" and that the actual need for theatres at those points would have to be supported in formal applications.

This was the first report to be received in response to instructions to all 13 OCR field offices to make investigations of theatre and other recreational needs in their areas.

Original estimates several months ago by the Office of Civilian Requirements and other Federal agencies set 100 as the total number of new theatre facilities which would probably be required this year to meet growing needs in areas where war manufacturing personnel migrations will over-tax existing facilities.

N.Y. Theatres Threatened By Strike Call

Exchange Union Walkout Set for Sunday

The executive board of Film Exchange Employes Union, Local B-51, IATSE, representing approximately 350 "backroom" employes of the eight majors' exchanges in New York yesterday voted a strike for midnight, Sunday, Feb. 13, which threatens over 800 theatres in the Metropolitan New York area with eventual shutdowns or interruption of service.

This action follows similar strike votes in Detroit and Seattle where IATSE officials interceded to prevent walkouts.

Reason given for the strike here is the failure of these employes, representing film inspectors, film shippers and poster clerks, to secure a 10 per cent increase which the companies are understood to be willing to grant, but which the Wage Stabilization Board has turned down because these workers have already received a 13 per cent increase under the "Little Steel" formula.

An appeal to the War Labor Board

(*Continued on page 9*)

April 1 Tax Seen By Unsigned Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Refusal of President Roosevelt to sign the new tax bill, permitting it to become law without his signature, would defer application of the higher admission tax until April 1, it was disclosed today as Congressional enrolling clerks attempted to finish preparing the bill

(*Continued on page 9*)

Trade Governing Body for Canada

TORONTO, Feb. 8.—Steps for the creation of a central trade-governing body representing all branches of business in Canada will be taken at a meeting scheduled here Feb. 15., which is said to be the first of several conferences for the adoption of a new deal and protective measures for private enterprise in postwar days.

This is the outcome of the armistice

(*Continued on page 9*)

Personal Mention

N. PETER RATHVON, RKO president will leave for Mexico City tomorrow for a two weeks visit. He will go to Hollywood from there on Feb. 24.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warners' general sales manager, and JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division head, will return today from a tour of the Central district. ROY HAINES, Southern and Western division sales manager, has returned from the Southwest.

•

LIEUT. PAUL MOONEY, JR., and MRS. MOONEY visited MOTION PICTURE DAILY offices here yesterday. Mooney, former *Motion Picture Herald* reporter was en route to a new post at Camp Stewart, Ga.

•

ADOLPH ZUKOR, Paramount board chairman and MRS. ZUKOR became great-grandparents yesterday when a daughter was born to their granddaughter, MRS. BOYD MCDAVID MORSE at Tucson, Ariz.

•

PAUL COHEN, formerly in the ad-publicity department of M & P Theatres, Boston, has been promoted to sergeant at the Boston Port of Embarkation.

•

HARVEY DAY, JR., former MOTION PICTURE DAILY sales representative and more recently selling for 20th-Fox in the Southwest, will enter the Navy on Feb. 21.

•

NAT LEVY, RKO-Radio Eastern division sales manager, will be in Philadelphia today and in Detroit tomorrow, and will return to New York on Saturday.

•

HAL DANSON, Paramount assistant advertising director, will leave for Hollywood Friday for his new post at the Paramount studio.

•

PAUL LAZARUS, United Artists' advertising and publicity director, is expected back from the Coast on Friday

•

GEORGE DINDAS, manager of the New York Strand, will be inducted early in April.

•

BILL GOLDEN of M-G-M's Coast publicity staff will return to Hollywood Saturday.

•

DAVID BERNSTEIN, Loew's vice-president and treasurer, is vacationing in Florida.

•

JULES FIELDS of 20th-Fox's exploitation department has returned to New York from Chicago.

•

JACK SICHELMAN of 20th-Fox's sales department, has returned to his desk after a vacation in Florida.

•

SAM ZIMBALIST, M-G-M producer, is in town.

•

AL LICHTMAN, Loew's vice-president, is at Palm Springs, Calif.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Feb. 8

IT is only a handful of days since OWI unlocked the door slammed abruptly shut last November. Then the Army circulated the word privately that security reasons dictated the need for producers to avoid picturizing Japanese atrocities perpetrated on American prisoners-of-war.

The move, little understood at the time but accepted as representative of official, if mysterious, policy, nevertheless was taken in stride. There was no other way out, anyway.

Established not long after was the fact the original order was issued through the War Department at the behest of the high command. No one may assert with complete authority, nor does the information appear admissible if he knew, just what reprisals the military authorities were seeking to avert.

Particularly is this so in the light of the "March of Death" account made public recently, demonstrating, as it did, that the information had been in Army hands for many months.

■

While the reasons surrounding the situation last November were never regarded as valid within the boundaries of Hollywood's understanding, the line continued to hold without a break. But in a number of directions it was thought then the studios were in a position to perform additional service by pointing up known facts wrapped around fictional treatment and thereby bring the American people closer to the truth about the Pacific enemy.

Latter day events, illustrated by final release of the horror story of Bataan, are now viewed as a complete vindication and justification of the attitude originally held. Whether any substantial ground has been lost between November and January becomes a debatable issue, predicated on the belief residing here that one feature, at least, would have been approximately ready to coincide with the divulgement of the Bataan story.

At any rate, the bars are down officially now and a cycle is in the throes. This should not, and probably won't, create any surprises. It is part of Hollywood's reactions, as well as a demonstration of its mobility, to seize upon headline news as the basis for some of its films. The reasoned approach applying to dramatizations of Japanese atrocity stories must encompass the hope, however, that the collective studios will not overdo what can be an interesting and new avenue of production.

■

But the race in these parts continued traditionally keen. The competition to be the first away from the post cannot be denied, nor is there reason why it should. Stimulation and enthusiasm, coupled with opportunity, are essential components of the business of making pictures.

This is why RKO has dusted off a Jap yarn with which it had been tinkering for some time. It explains why Republic registered "The Death March," why Bryan Foy has resumed preparation on "Horror Island" and why the King Brothers are plotting one called "I Was a Prisoner of Japan."

Indicated as an easy first, however, is "The Purple Heart" on which Darryl F. Zanuck has been busy for weeks. Methods and means of galvanizing it further and moving it faster to the market place are the purposes of an unscheduled trip here of Spyros Skouras, Tom Connors, Bill Kupper and Hal Horne.

■ ■

The Spitz-Goetz deal marks a departure from a recent, but undeclared, RKO policy of shying away from outside deals. The Koerner administration is an avowed success. The studio last year functioned at an eye-opening profit in seven fat figures out of which grew the intention of making the production policy a self-contained affair beyond continuance of existing arrangements with outside producers. Like Sam Goldwyn, for instance.

Coast dopesters who cottoned to their own conviction that Messrs. Spitz and Goetz would make no alliance unless it was fashioned along the lines of the original arrangement struck by Joe Schenck and Zanuck when 20th Century moved into Fox are stuck with it. Because:

The International-RKO contract is a straight distribution setup. No RKO stock changed hands. No options to buy RKO stock are involved. It's a four-picture deal, effective next season. It can go beyond, depending on what happens.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 8

ETHEL BARRYMORE has been signed by RKO for the leading feminine role in "None But the Lonely Heart." She has not appeared in pictures since 1932.

•

The Permanent Charities Committee has unanimously chosen Frank Carothers, chairman of the Motion Picture Internationals Committee, to head Hollywood's participation in the coming Red Cross drive. It marks the first time an industry labor executive has been placed in charge of such a campaign.

•

W. Ray Johnston has reported that Monogram employes have purchased $15,775 in war bonds to date while B. B. Kahane, Columbia War Finance Committee chairman, announced that employes' purchases in that company are nearing $100,000.

•

Republic today signed Gene Autrey to a new contract for the duration plus two years after the war, calling for five pictures in the first post-war year and eight in the second. The actor is at present with the U. S. Army Air Forces.

•

Shooting on Paramount's "Incendiary Blonde," suspended for two weeks because of Betty Hutton's illness, has been resumed. The Technicolor musical is being directed by George Marshall.

•

Columbia and Monogram studios have each purchased war bonds totaling $100,000 and United Artists has bought $40,000 worth while scattered sales brought yesterday's total to over $150,000.

•

Ted Strauss, former assistant motion picture editor of the New York *Times*, has arrived at the Paramount studio here to commence his writing contract.

•

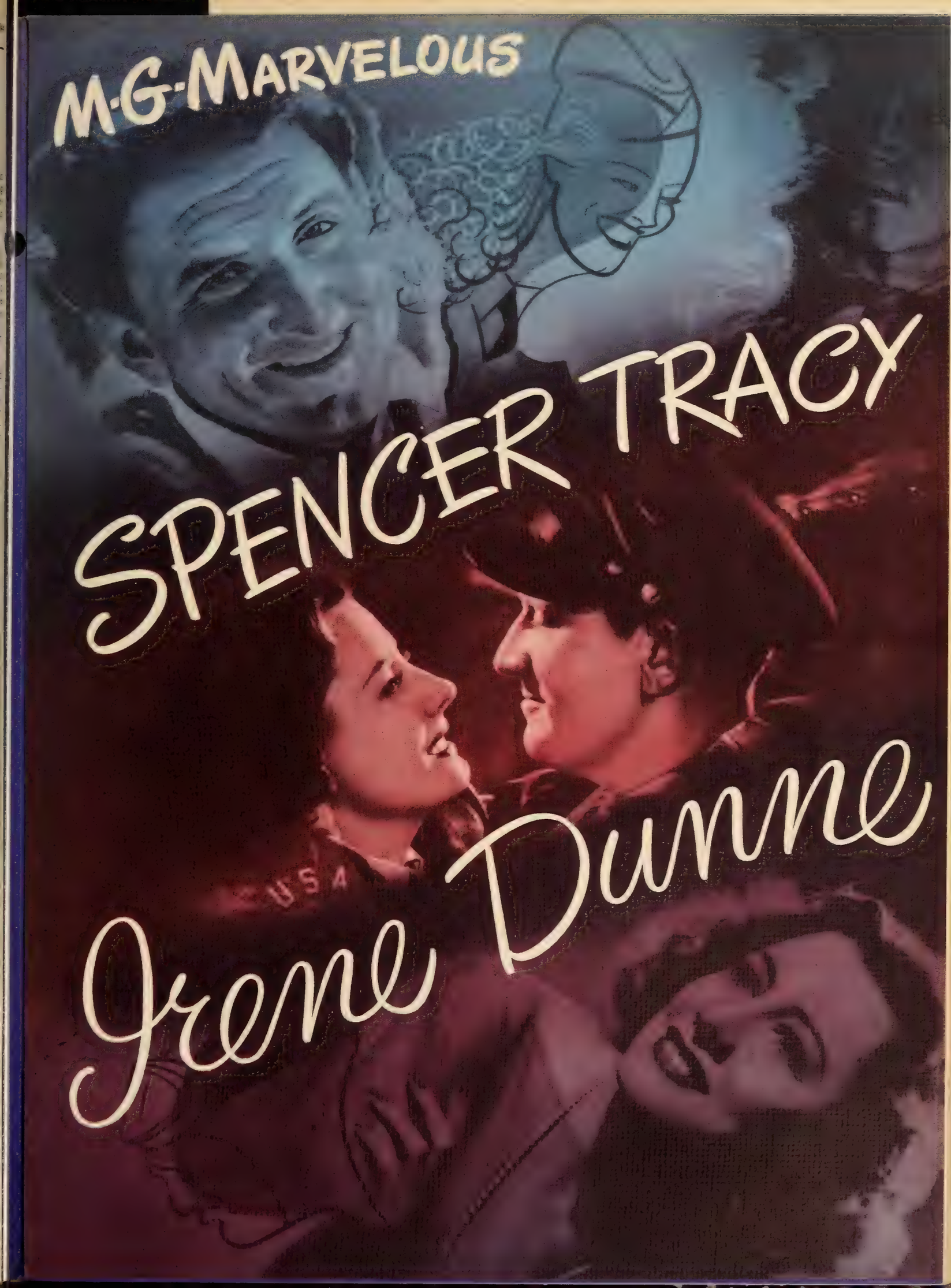
Monogram has bought "The Sins of the Parents" to follow up "Where Are Your Children?"; Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz will produce.

Warners Still Asks SAG Injunction

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—Warners has filed an amended complaint in the "Hollywood Canteen" suit against the Screen Actors Guild in which the studio dropped its request for $500,000 damages, but again asked an injunction against the guild's enforcement of its Rule 33 barring actors from working in a "Canteen" production for "less than their usual salaries" and additionally asking for a court interpretation of the SAG-studio basic agreement on the points brought up in the "Canteen" dispute.

In a new allegation, the studio charged the guild intended to prevent Warners, or any other studio, from making commercial pictures with benevolent or war angles.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.


M-G-MARVELOUS
SPENCER TRACY
Irene Dunne

M-G-M HIT
for the NATION

CAPITOL N.Y.
WORLD
PREMIERE
ENGAGEMENT



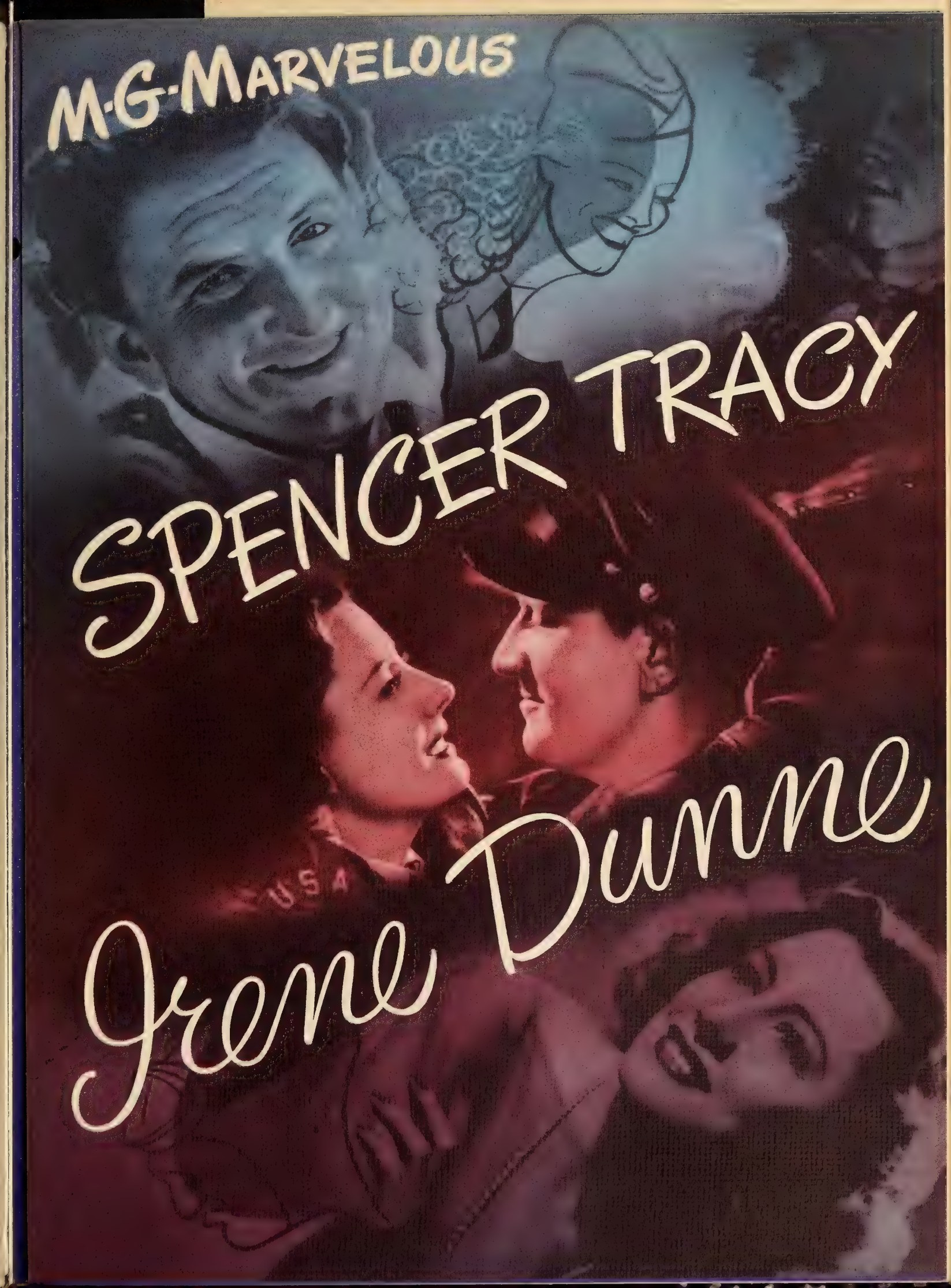
A Guy Named Joe

Victor Fleming's Production

The story of a regular guy—and a gal to match

with Van Johnson • Ward Bond • James Gleason
Lionel Barrymore • Barry Nelson • Esther Williams

Screen Play by Dalton Trumbo · Adaptation by Frederick Hazlitt Brennan
Directed by Victor Fleming · Produced by Everett Riskin


M-G-MARVELOUS
SPENCER TRACY
Irene Dunne



WELL CUSHIONED!



"A GUY NAMED JOE" IS JUST ONE OF M-G-M'S NEW GROUP "VITAMIN 12" PEP! PROFITS! PLEASURE!

"Keep up the attack! 4th WAR LOAN!"

Blue Web Expanding Hollywood Activities

Looking to a further expansion of the use of Hollywood talent by the Blue Network, Edward J. Noble, chairman of the board will arrive on the Coast this week to confer with Mark Woods, Blue president who has been in Hollywood since last week, and Don E. Gilman, in charge of the Western division.

According to Woods, Hollywood will in time become the center of Blue operations with production concentrated there. The purpose of Noble's visit at this time is to seek a site for the Blue's own Hollywood studios and to look over the situation with a view to purchasing a local outlet.

Production on new studios will get under way as soon as possible after the war, according to Woods. The Blue can continue to operate its present quarters under agreement with National Broadcasting until two years after equipment becomes available, after war ends, for new studios and technical installation. Other business to be transacted by Noble and Woods will include the filing of final application for a frequency modulation and television transmitter for the Blue in Hollywood.

'Wassell' Premiere Set for Washington

Cecil B. DeMille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell" will probably have its world premiere in Washington in May, according to Neil Agnew, Paramount general sales manager. This will be followed by an opening in Little Rock, Ark., home of Comdr. Corydon M. Wassell, whose evacuation of wounded American sailors from Java during the Japanese invasion is the basic theme of the film.

DeMille, Cooper and Comdr. Wassell are expected to attend both openings. The picture will be released separately at no increase in admission prices. R. M. Gillham, Paramount advertising-publicity director, is now setting the advertising and exploitation campaign.

Universal Luncheon For Julien Duvivier

Julien Duvivier, director of Universal's "Impostor" and "Flesh and Fantasy," was guest of honor at a luncheon here yesterday given by the "U" company at 21 Club and attended by trade press, magazine and newspaper representatives.

Among the 35 other attending guests were Capt. Paul Weil of "France Forever," L. Chiffrin of the "Free French" groups and Universal executives including Charles D. Prutzman, William A. Scully, John J. O'Connor, Maurice Bergman, Henry Linet, Al Horwitz and Adolph Schimel.

Kraska Feted in Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 8.—George Kraska, recently named manager of Loew's State Theatre here, was guest of honor at a reception given by exhibitors and M-G-M officials. Kraska, recently associated with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in New York, was formerly manager of the Fine Arts Theatre in this city.

Review

"The Vigilantes Ride"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, Feb. 8

"THE VIGILANTES RIDE," forged for Columbia by director William Berke under the production supervision of Leon Brasha from an original screenplay by Ed Earl Repp, is a top Western formula picture with punch, plot, and realistic performances.

Russell Hayden's portrayal of a Ranger who pretends to turn bank robber to get in with a bandit band, and the appeal of Shirley Patterson, as a Western heroine who can and does ride, coupled with the comedy of Dub Taylor, put the story across in good Western form. Hayden gets the goods on the outlaws and their leader, who has posed as a respected citizen and been made leader of the Vigilantes. With the girl's aid, during which she makes a dashing ride to bring the Rangers, he manages to round up the band and the leader is run down and killed by a stage coach as he tries to escape with the loot of many holdups.

Running time, 55 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 3.

JACK CARTWRIGHT

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Washington Will Get 'Bernadette' Next

"The Song of Bernadette," which is said to have already broken a 15-year record at the Rivoli here, will next open at Loew's Palace, Washington, on Feb. 17.

Subsequent bookings lined up by Tom Connors, 20th-Fox vice-president in charge of distribution, follow: Feb. 22, New, Baltimore; Capitol, Cincinnati and 11 other key spots; Feb. 24, Aldine, Philadelphia; Feb. 25, Paramount, San Francisco; Mar. 3, Great Lakes, Buffalo; Mar. 7, Denver and Esquire, Denver; Mar. 16, Ambassador, St. Louis, and Mar. 17, Circle, Indianapolis.

The film will open at the State-Lake, Chicago, late this month and shortly thereafter in other Loew, Warner and RKO houses.

Ampa Lunch Feb. 14 For Louella Parsons

The Associated Motion Picture Advertisers will give a luncheon in honor of Louella Parsons, executive editor of the motion picture department for Hearst Publications, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Feb. 14, Vincent Trotta, president, announced yesterday. Representatives of the film companies will attend, with many sitting on the dais.

Meanwhile, an AMPA luncheon which was scheduled for the Hotel Edison on Feb. 24 will take place on Feb. 23. Maurice Bergman, Universal director of advertising-publicity, will discuss "What Has Happened to Advertising in the Theatre."

Shayon Will Leave F. & M., Join Morris

Sam Shayon, assistant to the late president of Fanchon and Marco, A. J. Partington, has resigned, effective March 1.

Shayon, associated with Fanchon and Marco in New York and Los Angeles for the past 12 years, will join the William Morris agency.

Shearer's Father Passes

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—Andrew Shearer, 80, father of Norma Shearer, actress, and Douglas Shearer, film recorder, died yesterday. Private services will be held in Glendale.

'Children' $28,000 In 2 Weeks: Buffalo

BUFFALO, Feb. 8.—"Where Are Your Children?" was the big news here; its two week gross at the Lafayette is expected to exceed $28,000. "In Our Time," in its world premiere at the Buffalo, was headed for a fine $19,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 12:

"In Our Time" (WB)
BUFFALO—(3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $16,500).

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Crime Doctor's Strange Case" (Col.)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,800. (Average: $16,400).

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
"Murder in Times Square" (Col.)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) 35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover. Gross: $10,800. (Average: $9,500).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Hoosier Holiday" (Rep.)
20TH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $11,700. (Average: $10,600).

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Spotlight Scandals" (Mono.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,700. (Average: $10,500).

Six in Philadelphia Off to Services

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 8—An M. P. Associates luncheon given here yesterday for Saul J. Krugman, former president of the MPA and a United Artists salesman here who will leave for the Navy Feb. 21, became a mass farewell when five others present revealed that they also would enter service this month.

The others are: Si Bell, Columbia salesman; Jack Brower, manager of the Belgrade; Paul Kleinman, manager of the Pearl; Jerry Meyers, manager of the Bell, and John Harwin, operator of the Mt. Ephraim Theatre at Mt. Ephraim, N. J.

Siegel Reports to M-G-M on March 1

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—M. J. Siegel, who resigned Jan. 11 as president of Republic to accept a high executive post with M-G-M, will report for his new duties on Mar. 1, it was learned here yesterday when he left for a 10-day stay in New York.

Siegel, as previously reported, will be succeeded at Republic by Allen Wilson, who was appointed vice-president in charge of studio operations.

Premiere Tonight For 'Lady In Dark'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—This town's first "Technicolor premiere," marked by vari-colored searchlights, will be held at the Hollywood Paramount tomorrow night for "Lady in the Dark." Industry celebrities will join with civic leaders and Army, Navy and Marine Corps officials will attend.

Harry Von Zell will conduct a radio broadcast from the lobby over KFWB during which stars, attending celebrities, and officials will be introduced. For days in advance radio programs, spot announcements, newspaper interviews and columns have told of plans for the affair, as arranged by George Brown, Paramount studio publicity director, and his staff. Ginger Rogers, star of the film, and Phyllis Brooks, a supporting player, were guests on the Bob Hope programs, Mischa Auer was featured on the Bing Crosby broadcast, Erskine Johnson's Coast-wide program has featured director Mitchell Leisen, Barry Sullivan, Auer, Warner Baxter and Catherine Craig for five nights preceding the premiere.

Celebrities Invited

In addition to Paramount studio executives, headed by B. G. DeSylva and Henry Ginsberg, the guests invited include Ingrid Bergman, Claudette Colbert, Alan Ladd, Walter Abel, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Gary Cooper, Cecil B. DeMille, Harry Carey, Joseph Cotten, Irving Cummings, Marlene Dietrich, David Butler, Laraine Day, Irene Dunne, Harry Cohn, Faye Emerson, Gracie Fields, John Garfield, Judy Garland, Paulette Goddard, Samuel Goldwyn, Moss Hart, Jean Heather, David Hempstead, Mark Hellinger, Alfred Hitchcock, Joan Harrison, Arthur Hornblow, Betty Hutton, George Jessel, Charles W. Koerner, Fred MacMurray, Marjorie Reynolds, Mark Sandrich, Joseph M. Schenck, Red Skelton, Alexis Smith, Hal B. Wallis, Commander Corydon M. Wassell, Loretta Young, Adolph Zukor and Lieut. Commander Eugene Zukor.

Davis Names Barrett OWI Overseas Head

Edward W. Barrett, former chief of the Office of War Information news and features bureau has been named executive director of OWI's overseas branch in the reorganization which resulted yesterday in the resignation of Joseph Barnes, James P. Warburg and Ed Johnson, and the transfer of Robert Sherwood, director of the branch, to London.

Thurman L. Barnard, head of the OWI outpost service bureau, has been promoted to assistant executive director. Edward Klauber, former executive director of Columbia Broadcasting, who has been associate director of OWI, is seen as assuming added authority in the reorganization.

Warburg was deputy director of propaganda, Barnes was deputy director for Atlantic operations, and Johnson was chief of the editorial board of the New York office.

Boston Runs High, 'Old Acquaintance' Gets Big $33,000

BOSTON, Feb. 8.—Both downtown and neighborhood houses are profiting. Downtown houses this week will exceed last week's records and in many instances will build new ones. "Old Acquaintance" was the leader on $33,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 9:

"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
RKO BOSTON—(3,900) (44c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage show included Jimmy Dorsey and orchestra. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $26,800).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,400) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $13,600).
"Madame Curie" (Univ.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $23,600).
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
"Minesweeper" (Para.)
METROPOLITAN—(4,367) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $33,000. (Average: $27,400).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
NORMANDIE—(1,450) (30c-44c-55c-65c), 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $12,500).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
MAJESTIC—(1,650) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $6,500).
"North Star" (RKO)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
KEITH MEMORIAL—(2,900) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $19,300).
"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Clementine" (Rep.)
FENWAY—(1,373) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $5,800).
"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Clementine" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT—(1,700) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $8,600).

'Gung Ho's' $18,000 Is $3,000 Over Par

CINCINNATI, Feb. 8.—"Gung Ho!", preceded by a heavy barrage of newspaper advertising, is topping the local list of straight films, pointing to an estimated $18,000 at the RKO Palace in a week in which all houses are showing better returns than the previous week. The weather is cold.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 9-12:

"Dr. Gillespie's Criminal Case" (M-G-M)
RKO ALBEE—(3,292) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: Andrews Sisters, Mitch Ayres' orchestra, Gene Bayles and Eleanor Teeman. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $10,000).
"Submarine Base" (PRC)
"California Joe" (Rep.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,500. (Average: $1,400).
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
"Raiders of the Border" (Mono.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $800. (Average: $800).
"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,500).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover from the Shubert following a week at the Palace. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 4th week, moveover from three weeks at the RKO Grand. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,200).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $15,000).
"Desert Song" (WB)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Palace. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $5,000).

Reviews

"Devil Riders"

(PRC)

"DEVIL RIDERS" has little to distinguish it from other highly routine plots on the old West, but it will undoubtedly please action addicts. Buster Crabbe is a square-shootin', hard-ridin' Billy Carson (not Billy the Kid) and "Fuzzy" St. John, again Crabbe's faithful partner, once more provides the comic touch.

Frank La Rue, honest and respectable citizen, wins the stage coach franchise, and Crabbe, who has been carrying the mail by Pony Express, wants the mail rights. There is no enmity between the two and it looks like a legitimate race to see who gets the mail until a crooked gang, led by Charles King and John Merton seek to establish friction between the two, scheming to ruin both in an attempt to keep out a stage line altogether, King and Merton fearing their rackets will be jeopardized with the coming of law and order. Crabbe sees through the plan and after much shooting and many brawls, he emerges triumphant and all is well.

Crabbe and St. John handle their roles in customary form, satisfactorily supported by Merton, King, La Rue and Patti McCarthy. The film stands up fairly well in the average Western class. Sam Newfield directed from Joe O'Donnell's screenplay.

Running time, 58 mins. "G."* HELEN MCNAMARA

"Men on Her Mind"

(PRC)

Hollywood, Feb. 8

WITH the name of Mary Beth Hughes to attract customers and three likeable songs to entertain them, Alfred Stern's production of "Men on Her Mind," directed by Wallace W. Fox, from a script by Raymond L. Schrock, accounts smoothly enough for 67 minutes of running time without deviating spectacularly from its budgetary norm in either direction.

Fashioned somewhat in the format of the Ginger Rogers "Tom, Dick and Harry" of a few years back, the film presents the case of a successful singer faced with need of choosing between three eligible and equally honorable suitors. Flashbacks explore the three romances and she makes her choice. Apart from a quick murder which figures briefly in the early footage, there's no melodrama to spark the proceedings, animation accruing principally from Miss Hughes' singing of the three songs.

Others in the cast are Edward Norris, Ted North, Alan Edwards, Luis Alberni, Kay Linaker, Claire Rochelle, Lyle Latell, Claire McDowell, Eva Hamill, Isabel La Mal and Lane Chandler.

Running time, 67 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 12.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Return of the Vampire"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, Feb. 8

LEW LANDERS directed "Return of the Vampire" with attention to suspenseful detail, which builds up horror against a background of London bombings, a woman scientist's home, and clammy, fog-shrouded graveyards provided under production handling by Sam White.

Screenplay by Griffin Jay brings the vampire, Bela Lugosi, back to seek revenge after having once been vanquished by the woman scientist, Freda Inescort. He re-enslaves Nat Willis, whom he changes at will into a wolfman, and seeks to enslave Nina Foch, fiance of the woman scientist's son. Nazi bombs play a leading role, first in disturbing the vampire's grave so that he can return and later adding terror as Willis throws off the yoke of the evil monster and destroys him.

Running time, 69 minutes. "G."*

JACK CARTWRIGHT

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Release Cellophane For Wrapping Films

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The War Production Board has tightened its control on the use of cellophane for non-essential purposes but relaxed its restrictions to permit use of the material for wrapping unexposed commercial film.

The relaxation, it was explained here is to relieve hardships due to inability to find a satisfactory substitute for cellophane.

Film Companies Are Buying WABC Time

Increased use of radio to advertise new productions is evidenced by current campaigns being carried by CBS's WABC, New York. Paramount started a campaign for "Lady In the Dark" on the Margaret Arlen program last Monday; M-G-M currently has a campaign on the same program for "Madame Curie", and 20th Century-Fox has set several spots for "The Song of Bernadette." Warners also used the station recently for a campaign on "Desert Song."

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Feb. 8

THE demand by local, out-of-town and foreign press representatives has been so heavy in connection with preview showings of "Lady in the Dark," that Paramount has scheduled four separate screenings for the press prior to the world premiere of the picture tomorrow at the Hollywood Paramount Theatre.

•

Start of four new pictures this month, with six already on the stages, will give Warners its heaviest production schedule since Pearl Harbor. New ones given the starting signal by Jack L. Warner include: "The Conspirators," "Never Goodbye," "To Have and Have Not" and "The Very Thought of You".

•

Lester Cowan has signed Herbert Kline, producer of documentary war films, to assist on production of "Here Is Your War," based both on the Ernie Pyle book and war front dispatches. . . . Edward Small plans to produce "Edmund Dante," Dumas' sequal to "The Count of Monte Cristo." . . . George Waggner, producing and directing, has his "The Climax" before the cameras at Universal, with Susanna Foster in the top role. . . . Clifford Sanforth announces he will produce "Son of Robin Hood," by Paul C. Casleton, but has not as yet signed a release deal.

•

Warners reports "Desert Song" topped all other pictures for the first weekend business at Warners' three first-run situations here with the exception of "This is the Army" and "Destination Tokyo." . . . Craig Reynolds, recently given a medical discharge from the Marines, with whom he enlisted in Sept., 1940, has been signed by RKO-Radio. . . . Barry Sullivan has been set for a principal role in Paramount's "Two Years Before the Mast." . . . Cab Calloway and his band have arrived to start work in Andrew Stone's "Sensations of 1944." They will do three songs in a Harlem nightclub sequence.

Crenshaw Answers Anti-Trust Charges

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—Operators of the Crenshaw Theatre here have filed an answer in Federal Court here to Bard's Adams Theatre suit against Crenshaw and Fox West Coast Theatres, for alleged violations of the anti-trust laws. Crenshaw counter-charges a conspiracy to violate the same laws and seeks an injunction against Adams and dismissal of the Adams suit against Crenshaw and Fox.

Fox West Coast has filed a petition for a bill of particulars alleging that the Adams complaint is vague. The case will be heard here before Federal Judge Benjamin Harrison on Feb. 10.

Rivoli's 27th Birthday

The Rivoli on Broadway is celebrating its 27th anniversary. It will award a $25 war bond for the letter from the public most fully describing the program presented when the house opened in 1917, managing director Montague Salmon announces.

Clark Hears Complaints of Independents

(Continued from page 1)

and William Crockett of the Virginia Motion Picture Theatre Owners met in the offices of Abram F. Myers, Allied general council, to whip into shape the 30-page draft of a brief which is to be submitted to Clark tomorrow.

This brief is expected to cover all of the major proposals, on most of which the joint conference will have criticisms to offer, it was indicated. At the same time, it is expected that definite recommendations for improvement in many of the provisions will be suggested as a guide to Clark in the further negotiations with the companies which will follow the hearing of exhibitor views.

Most of the independent theatre owners' objections are expected to center around the arbitration chapter, but it is anticipated that there also will be objections to provisions relating to circuits which would unduly restrict theatre divorcement proceedings by the Department.

April 1 Tax Seen By Unsigned Bill

(Continued from page 1)

for transmission to the White House. The measure is not expected to reach the White House before tomorrow. By holding it 10 days without action, the President could permit it to become law without his signature, but that period would overrun the deadline provided in the bill itself, making the taxes effective on the first day of the first month beginning more than 10 days after enactment (Sundays excepted).

There is a chance, of course, that the President may veto the measure because of its inadequacy to raise the revenue he asked, but more chance is seen of his letting it become law by default.

Customers Disagree With Detroit Critics

DETROIT, Feb. 8—Critics who 'panned' the ending of RKO's "Tender Comrade," which had its pre-release showing here, took a beating in a poll of patrons at the Michigan Theatre announced here today.

The lobby poll failed to uncover a single woman patron who disliked the ending which the critics had labelled "phoney heroics and a letdown after an excellent performance." A second ending which RKO had prepared in case public reaction was too unfavorable will stay in the can.

Trade Governing Body for Canada

(Continued from page 1)

session engineered last week by Ontario independents who later called off the meeting in Ottawa at which trade complaints were to have been placed before Federal Government officials. Leading independents of both Eastern and Western Canada are expected for next week's important deliberations. Already here is W. P. Mahon of Prince Albert, Sask., who had intended taking part in the Ottawa meeting but is remaining for the peace conference.

Others Attending

Others will include Malcolm Walker of Halifax, A. J. Mason of Springhill, B. C. Salamis of Montreal and Ben Freedman and Henry Falk, both of Toronto. Representing other organizations and circuits will be J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players, Haskell Masters of Odeon, Colonel John A. Cooper for the Distributors Association and H. A. Milligan, president of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario, which includes circuit members, chain partners and unattached theatre owners.

No official statement has been issued on the developments, but all indications support the impression that the movement is of utmost importance to the whole motion picture business in the Dominion.

RKO Circuit Forces 'Tokyo' from Strand

(Continued from page 1)

day, with a two weeks' clearance between Broadway closing and the start of the circuit booking. The Strand originally figured on a five weeks run for the picture, but grosses for the first three weeks demonstrated that double that time would not be amiss. RKO, however, stood pat on its opening date and the Strand was able to squeeze in only six instead of 10 weeks as a result.

"Destination Toyko" is the first picture to gross an average of more than $55,000 weekly for six successive weeks at the Strand, according to Warners.

$536,000 in 1,412 Houses for 'Dimes'

The industry's March of Dimes national headquarters here yesterday reported a total of $536,000 in collections in 1,412 theatres in the recent 'Dimes' campaign. This represents a cross-section of the country and averages $380 per theatre. It is an indication that the anticipated total of $4,000,000 for all houses will be reached, said the committee.

Harry Barco Elected

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 8.—Projectionists union, No. 143, AFL, has elected Harry A. Barco as business representative, replacing Robert Tomsen, who succeeded Clyde Weston four years ago. Harvard O'Laughlin was elected president of the local.

Legion Cooperation For MPA Program

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—The Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals today accepted the proffered cooperation of the California American Legion Americanization committee in the MPA program to eradicate Communist-Fascist influences on the industry, Sam Wood, president of the MPA, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY today. MPA's executive board, with Capt. Clark Gable as guest of honor will meet with the Americanization chairmen of Legion posts from all parts of the state at Patriotic Hall here Washington's Birthday.

Wood said: "The Legion's offer of aid in combating subversive activities in the industry is welcomed and the meeting Feb. 22 is the first step in that direction."

Speakers will include Col. Rupert Hughes, MPA; Appellate Court Justice Thomas P. White and State Senator Jack Tenney, chairman of the joint legislative committee investigating un-American activities.

SPG, Majors Delay

Arbitration hearings between the Screen Publicists Guild of New York and the eight major companies, Loew's Theatres and RKO Service Corp., held at the offices of the American Arbitration Association, have been adjourned and, it is understood, will be resumed on Feb. 14. Adjournment was agreed upon by mutual consent of all parties concerned.

N.Y. Theatres Threatened By Strike Call

(Continued from page 1)

from the stabilization board's order is understood to be pending in Philadelphia, but the workers are said to be impatient and trying to force the issue with the WLB and the companies. The 10 per cent increase demanded would be retroactive to December, 1942.

Seek 44 Hour Work Week

In an effort to circumvent the present situation, which also confronts 3,000 "backroom" employees in the 31 exchange cities throughout the country, IATSE officials are understood to have held discussions recently with representatives of the companies with an eye to increasing the work week for these workers to 44 hours, to allow payments of additional wages. IATSE officials are understood to have taken the position that such a move would not require WLB approval, but agreement could not be reached with the companies, who are said to be awaiting the outcome of the appeal pending in Philadelphia.

Theatres potentially involved in the New York strike call are in the five New York boroughs and Long Island, Northern New Jersey, lower New York State as far as Poughkeepsie and lower Connecticut.



Philadelphia Grosses Boom; Holdovers Big

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 8.—Business downtown boomed to new highs here with all houses enjoying their best weeks in months. The Earle led with Tommy Dorsey's band and "Doughboys in Ireland" heading for a record-breaking $48,000 for the six-day week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 9-11:

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
ALDINE—(900) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,400. (Average: $10,300)
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $3,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $22,600. (Average: $19,000).
"Doughboys in Ireland" (Col.) (6 days)
"The Desert Song" (WB) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville including Tommy Dorsey's orchestra, Gene Krupa, Betty Brewer, Jimmy Cook, Edwards Sisters and Paul Regan. Gross: $52,500. (Average: $22,000)
"Riding High" (Para.)
'Riding High" (Para.)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $17,800).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $5,600).
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $5,000).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
MASTBAUM—(4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $38,000. (Average: $22,-000)
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
STANLEY—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $18,300).
"Jack London" (UA)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $8,000).

Carroll-Paramount $300,000 Trial Ends

Attorneys for Earl Carroll and Paramount, rested yesterday in the Federal court trial of Carroll's $300,-000 breach of contract action which is based upon the alleged inferiority of the Paramount film, "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

Carroll testified that he did not produce the picture, although he was billed as producer. This, he contended, "injured his reputation as a showman." Later, however, Carroll admitted that he had asked Paramount to credit him as producer. Federal Judge John C. Knox today will hear argument on Paramount's motion for dismissal.

Theatre Management Record and Annual Tax Register

■ Easy accounting system that enables you to keep an accurate, complete and up-to-the-minute record of the business of your theatre. $2.00 Postpaid

QUIGLEY BOOKSHOP
Rockefeller Center, New York (20)

'Desert Song' Nice $19,000: Baltimore

BALTIMORE, Feb. 8.—New pictures here are doing well, but holdovers have somewhat worn out their welcome. Best business went to "Desert Song," taking an easy $19,000 at the Stanley, with "Song of Russia" second at $17,000 at the Century.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 10:

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $16,500).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(2,406) (28c-35c-40c-50c and 55c weekends) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,-500. (Average: $12,000)
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (28c-35c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $9,700)
"The Desert Song" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-50c-55c and 60c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $16,900).
"The North Star" (RKO)
HIPPODROME—(2,205) (28c-30c-45c-55c-66c)) 7 days, 2nd week. New stage show: Ray English, Crosby Sisters, The Orantos, Pansy, the Horse. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $16,800).
"The Woman of the Town" (UA)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,900).
"Squadron Leader X" (RKO)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,500).

Providence Yields 'Lost Angel' $19,000

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 8.—"Lost Angel" with $19,000 was doing smash business here at Loew's State and is likely to hold over. "None Shall Escape" held up well in its second week at the Strand, while "Desert Song" was strong at the Majestic.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 10:

"The North Star" (RKO)
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $12,900).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,600. (Average: $10,000).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $15,500).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
"Fired Wife" (Univ.)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Majestic. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,900).
"Career Girl" (PRC)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: Primrose & Gold, Doris Hall, Pinky Black, Burton's Birds, Marilynn James, The Two Arleys. Gross: $7,100. (Average: $6,500).
"King of the Damned" (G-B)
METROPOLITAN—(3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Virginia Weidler, Cy Reeves, Mack & Desmond, The Briants, Florence Fisher, Silver Streaks, Ed Drew & Orchestra. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $8,000).

Legion Passes Five, Objects to 'Lady'

The Legion of Decency this week classified six current pictures, as follows: Class A-I, for general patronage: "Charlie Chan in the Secret Service," Monogram; "The Song of Bernadette," 20th-Fox; "Sundown Valley," Columbia, and "We've Come a Long, Long Way" (documentary), Negro Marches On Inc.; Class A-II, for adults: "Tender Comrade," RKO. Class B, objectionable in part: "Lady in the Dark," Paramount, because of "suggestive song and costume" and because it "reflects the acceptability of divorce."

Canadians Will Ask End of War Time

TORONTO, Feb. 8—Scores of cities and towns in Canada are preparing a demand to be presented to the Dominion Government for the abandonment of permanent daylight saving time throughout the country. The petition will be presented through a resolution of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

The Government will be asked to revert to the policy of local autonomy in the matter of time on the grounds that compulsory nationwide observance is no longer necessary as a wartime measure.

Cleveland Gives 'Sahara' $24,000

CLEVELAND, Feb. 8. — "Sahara" worked wonders here to climb to an estimated $24,000 at Warners' Hippodrome. Another bell-ringer is "Lost Angel," grossing at least $21,-000 at Loew's State. "Women in Bondage" is establishing a new record at Loew's Ohio with $13,000 in sight, which is almost triple the average.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 9:

"Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,500).
"Sahara" (Col.)
WARNERS HIPPODROME—(3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $17,500).
"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,000).
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $4,500).
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Earl Carroll's Vanities. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $17,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $9,500).

'Cheer' Rates Cheer; $15,800 in Toronto

TORONTO, Feb. 8. — "Thousands Cheer" at Loew's Theatre got $15,800 for the week. "Old Acquaintance" at Shea's had $13,800 in sight for a holdover. "Intermezzo" at the Eglinton promised $4,400.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 10:

"Intermezzo" (Alliance)
EGLINTON—(1,085) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,400. (Average: $3,900).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,100. (Average: $12,-600).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $15,800. (Average: $10,800).
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $12,300).
"Watch on the Rhine" (WB) moveover
"Murder on the Waterfront" (WB)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $4,600. (Average: $4,600)
"In Old Oklahoma" (Rep.)
"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,700. (Average: $9,700).

Short Subject Reviews

"Mail Call"
(RKO-Pathe)

The latest release in Frederic Ullman's "This Is America" series emphasizes the importance of the Government's V-Mail service, recording the efficiency of the micro-filming process as letters are handled here, sacked and shipped by plane to U. S. fighting forces abroad. The subject is handled well and the proper degree of emphasis is placed upon the importance of mail to our armed forces. Dwight Weist's commentary is good. Music score by Max Pilzer and Herman Fuchs is excellent. Slavko Vorkapich directed. Running time, 17 mins.

'Greatest Man in Siam'
(Universal)

Here is a clever cartoon with real punch. The story is clever, the musical score is excellent and the Technicolor is just right for the story-book middle Eastern setting. The King of Siam wants to marry off his daughter so he stages a contest whereby the greatest man in Siam will win the lovely princess. Many compete and a hot trumpeter finally arrives. He toots the blues all over the palace and wins the lady fair after she and her regal father "cut a rug" in the throne room. Running time, 7 mins.

'Unlucky Dog'
(RKO Pathe)

A nice variation on the old story about the talking dog. Edgar Kennedy's brother brings home the little animal and uses ventroliquism to induce Kennedy to obtain ownership for $500. There are plenty of laughs when family and neighbors react to the "miracle" and when the canine remarks are unflattering to Kennedy, who hopes for a big deal with a radio station. The climax comes after the sale, with the dog vowing not to utter a word henceforth. It is funny, but not rowdy. Running time, 15 mins.

'Wedtime Stories'
(RKO Pathe)

Leon Errol and his son find themselves in a Niagara Falls hotel, each keeping from the other the fact that he has a bride. The typical mix-up begins when the similarity of names lands Junior in Father's room through a clerk's error. All is complicated by a former flame of the old man's and the house detective she has secretly married. Comedy is uninspired but it is free of slapstick and is held within fair bounds. Running time, 17 mins.

'He Was Only Feudin'
(Columbia)

In this very wild comedy Andy Clyde's exercise rope bumps his head against the ceiling, his barber gives him a murderous shave, he crashes through a wall and gets many a load of buckshot in his pants. The plot, a bit difficult to follow, stems from Andy's objections to his daughter's marriage and from the pretty girl he hires to flirt with him. A generous entertainment dose for fans who like 'em loony. Running time, 16 mins.



LET 'EM HAVE IT!

A Bond For Every Seat!

How's *your* campaign going? Is it worthy of those who are dying in Italy, of those who give their lives for Marshall Island victories? *Your* extra effort will win a home-front victory to cheer our fighting troops — FIGHT!

War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, New York City

Kelly Resigns from United Artists; May Join J. Arthur Rank

(Continued from page 1)

ported in a London dispatch that Kelly had been offered a post as head of worldwide distribution of the product controlled by Rank's companies, but that Kelly would defer making a decision on the offer until after he had returned to New York and conferred with United Artists directors.

Kelly has been associated with United Artists almost since the company's inception, first as treasurer and then as a vice-president. In 1924, he was given supervision of the company's foreign department and retained that post except for brief intervals since. During his recent visit in London the company announced that he had relinquished supervision of foreign affairs and was being assigned to development of the company's postwar television plans.

Company Announced No Change

At that time the company announced that no change would be made in the foreign department, operating heads of which are Walter Gould, foreign general manager, and T. P. Mulrooney, foreign sales manager. Gradwell L. Sears, as distribution vice-president of the company, exercises nominal supervision over the foreign department as well.

At the time Kelly relinquished supervision of the company's foreign affairs, E. T. Carr, veteran managing director for United Artists in Britain, resigned to become associated with Rank. That London post is being filled temporarily by David H. Coplan, formerly Canadian head of United Artists.

Phila. WMC Hearing On 'Essential' Plea

(Continued from page 1)

tive of distributors met with Milton Weiss, WMC officer, but minutes of the hearing were declared confidential and off the record by the WMC excepting for the names of those voicing appeals.

Present from New York were Leon J. Bamberger and A. A. Schubart, RKO; Claude R. Collins of the WAC's newsreel division in Washington; Local union representatives Harold Bache of the Exchange Bookers Union; Henrietta Weinberg of the Exchanges Employees Union and Horace Johns of Local 307 IATSE; and the following representatives from local exchanges attended: W. R. Schwartz, Monogram, Samuel Gross, 20th Century-Fox; Lester J. Wurtele, Columbia; William G. Mansell, Warner Brothers; George E. Schwartz, Universal; Lou Formato M-G-M; Vincent O'Donnell, RKO; Harry Bodkin and E. V. McCaffrey; United Artists and Joseph Engel, Republic.

Willingham Subbing

John X. Quinn, M-G-M St. Louis branch manager, is ill, and J. Frank Willingham, Memphis branch manager, has taken over at St. Louis, it was stated here last week. Louis Ingram, Atlanta sales manager, will take over at Memphis.

54 Stars Took War Bond Message to 50,000,000

(Continued from page 1)

all charge; Hall Baetz, who directed the "Bondbardiers" and to Dick Dickson who had charge of the "Bond Battalions," both of whom worked with Barry Buchanan, Treasury Department liaison. All arrangements for players were made through the Hollywood Victory Committee.

The "Bondbardiers" were: Jane Withers, Anne Baxter, Ella Raines, Alan Marshall, Francis Dee, Eddie Albert, Franchot Tone, John Garfield, Jinx Falkenburg, Maria Montez, Lee Bowman, Red Skelton, Fred MacMurray, Madeleine LeBeau, Walter Pidgeon, Brian Aherne, Joan Fontaine, Cecilia Parker, Dana Andrews, Errol Flynn, Dennis Morgan, Arlene Judge, Brian Donlevy, Laraine Day, Lloyd Nolan, Jeannette MacDonald, Lucille Ball, Preston Foster, Nancy Kelly, Dinah Shore, Gene Kelly, Gene Tierney and Anthony Quinn.

The 20 players making the "Bond Battalion" tours included: Charles Bickford, Jo Carrol Dennison, Albert Dekker, Helen Walker, Charles Ruggles, Elaine Shepard, Porter Hall, Lois Andrews, Raymond Walburn, Lynn Merrick, Ann Savage, Lon Chaney Jr., Paul Kelly, Marjorie Woodworth, Gene Lockhart, Ramsey Ames, Charles Winninger, Marjorie Rambeau and Edgard Buchanan and Leslie Brooks. The latter two wind up their appearances in Philadelphia territory on Feb. 12.

Theatres Tune in on Bond Program Tonight

The largest aggregate audience ever to attend a motion picture and listen to a radio performance on the same program will be present tonight when theatres throughout the country "pipe in" at 9:30 EWT on the Blue network's 170-station broadcast of an Arch Oboler play written to boost the 4th War Loan Drive.

An all-screen-star cast headed by Paul Muni and featuring Thomas Mitchell, Fay Holden, Martha Scott, Robert Young and Lucille Watson will enact the drama of what would happen in an American family if the country were conquered and the Germans and Japs perpetrated the same atrocities here as elsewhere. Telegrams apprising exhibitors of the cast were sent out yesterday by B. V. Sturdivant, national campaign director for the industry.

The program was arranged by the U. S. Treasury as a tribute to the industry. Coca-Cola is donating the time. Victor Perkins will do the announcing, with Gordon Jenkins serving as musical director.

Roxy Sell-out for Feb. 11 Bond Show

The Roxy is a complete sell-out for the "Million Dollar War Bond Show" beginning at midnight, Friday, Feb. 11. The million dollar bond sale figure was reached over the weekend.

In addition to the Roxy, the twelve major motion picture theatres on Broadway—Astor, Capitol, Criterion Globe, Hollywod, Loew's State, RKO Palace, Paramount, Rialto, Rivoli, Strand and Radio City Music Hall—sold bonds and exchanged them for reserved tickets. This is the first time, according to the managers' committee, that a bond benefit has been a complete sell-out prior to the announcement of any of the star personalities who will appear on the stage.

'Stars for Victory' to Boost War Bond Sales

Screen, stage and radio stars will join with "sports" heroes of yesterday and today in a gala three-hour show called, "Stars for Victory," Sunday at the Waldorf-Astoria. Admission will be by war bond only.

The program will be jointly sponsored by the United Theatrical War Activities Committee, with Bert Lytell, Lawrence Tibbett and James Sauter in charge and the War Bond Sports Committee, headed by Stanley Woodward, chairman.

Tickets may be obtained in Room 205, 730 Fifth Avenue.

$50,475 at Music Hall

With a "no-waiting" system that permitted patrons to pick up completed war bonds on their way out of the theatre, the Radio City Music Hall here sold 1,211 bonds totaling $50,475 on "Free Movie Day," Monday, G. S. Eyssell, managing director, reported.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 189 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

W. L. GELLING, Paramount Theatre, Marshall, Texas.

MRS. ARTHUR BOWDEN, Strand Theatre, Atmore, Ala.

C. D. JARRETT, Rex Theatre, Clay Center, Kan.

FRANK K. SHAFFER, Dixie Theatre, Staunton, Va.

HAROLD J. JOHNSON, Glen Theatre, Glenwood Springs, Colo.

EDGAR DOOB, Aldine Theatre, Wilmington, Del.

JOHN MANUEL, State-Temple Theatre, Cortland, N. Y.

30-Year Dinner for Arthur Cole Monday

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 8.—Arthur Cole, Paramount office manager here, will be given a testimonial dinner at the Hotel Muehlebach on Feb. 14, upon completing 30 years of service in the industry.

Cole, who has been called "the first citizen of the movies in Kansas and Missouri," has long been known for his public relations work. He started in the business in 1914 with A. D. Flinton. He is secretary of the Variety Club and treasurer of the War Activities Committee for this area.



DO NOT REMOVE

4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 29 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1944 TEN CENTS

10,000 Enter 'Honored 100' Competition

Managers from Hawaii, Alaska Included

Over 10,000 theatre managers in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii are entered in the "Honored 100" contest of the 4th War Loan drive, Robert W. Selig, assistant campaign manager, reported here yesterday to Charles Skouras, industry bond chairman. This is the greatest all-industry effort on record, he said. The figure is based on actual entry blanks received and reports from state chairmen.

The contest is said to have given rise to unusual bond-selling results, with an all-expense trip to Washington, honor scrolls, industry acclaim and other awards going to the 100 managers who sell the greatest number of "E" bonds in ratio to the seating capacities of their houses.

War loan committee heads have

(*Continued on page* 11)

OCR Waives Lists Of House Materials

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—It is no longer necessary to furnish a list of materials to be used in construction in new application blanks prepared for theatre construction permits, George McMurphey, chief of the amusement and recreation section of the Office of Civilian Requirements, announced here today.

The new application forms, to be used beginning Feb. 15, are being distributed to field offices of the OCR. Copies will be made available at the offices within the next few days.

WB Circuit Collected $415,874 in Dimes

Warner circuit houses took in $415,874 in this year's March of Dimes drive, the Warner home office reported yesterday. Collections averaged $925 per house.

Early returns from the Philadelphia area indicate that the industry there has gone well over its quota, with the Al Boyd circuit in Eastern Pennsylvania reporting $5,739 and the William Goldman houses, $6,000. The Warner circuit collected $115,526 in Philadelphia. Trans-Lux theatres in New York reported $11,707, more than double the 1943 total.

'We Should Be Proud of Hollywood,' Says 'Liberty'

"Hollywood is doing a job of which every American should be immensely proud," writes Gretta Palmer in an article on the production community in the current issue of *Liberty* magazine, entitled "What's the Matter with Hollywood?"

Miss Palmer's article answers the question with the statement that all that is wrong with Hollywood is that it does not appraise itself highly enough—that "it has the worst collective sense of inferiority in the world today."

Taking disparagers of the industry and Hollywood severely to task, Miss Palmer asserts that:

"Hollywood is America's most cosmopolitan town, and it's doing a job we should applaud, as patriots. For

(*Continued on page* 9)

Industry Red Cross Goal Is 10 Millions

The film industry has set a goal of $10,000,000 for the 1944 Red Cross campaign, it was stated here yesterday by the War Activities Committee. Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Theatres, is the industry chairman for the drive. Si Fabian, chairman of the WAC, yesterday stated that, in cooperation with the

(*Continued on page* 11)

Ill. Allied Officer Decries U. S. 'Gag' On Decree Proposals

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—A vigorous protest against the Department of Justice's insistence upon exhibitor secrecy in discussing and appraising the distributors' new consent decree proposals and the withholding of the proposals from the trade press was voiced here today by Van A. Nomikos, local independent circuit operator and vice-president of Allied T. O. of Illinois.

"The agreement not to divulge or discuss publicly the contents of the decree draft is a serious encroachment upon our American freedom of

(*Continued on page* 9)

Clark Gets Owners' Decree Proposals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Representatives of independent exhibitor organizations today submitted their views on the majors' consent decree proposals to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark.

The group appointed at the Chicago

(*Continued on page* 11)

"Lady in the Dark"

[*Paramount*] *Hollywood, Feb.* 9

PARAMOUNT set forth to make "Lady in the Dark" a show to knock the eye out. The objective was reached and the mission thus accomplished.

Hollywood has had its sumptuous, luxurious and opulent moments, and there have been plenty down through the years, but this attraction this time nestles comfortably alongside the most extravagant. In fact, there will be those who will decree "Lady in the Dark" is without rival in its own arena.

Program notes cooked up for the big-time, Hollywood-style premiere of this overflowing cup of optical elegance at the Paramount Theatre here tonight describe the film as "The Song of Songs of Every Woman." Some question may attach itself to this analysis, but it is about as certain as anything may be expected to be that this will be a woman's picture all through its line of travel.

For what is probably the first time, psychoanalysis is the theme. The lady in the dark is Ginger Rogers, stylist and editor of a fashion magazine, preaching her practices without practicing them. The trouble is

(*Continued on page* 6)

British Owners Back Rank's World Plan

Concur in Proposal for New Industry Council

LONDON, Feb. 9.—The general council of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association today "wholeheartedly concurred" with a proposal projected by J. Arthur Rank, dominant British industry figure, for the establishment of an all-industry grand council to proceed with formulation of industry policy believed to be tied to current plans for British expansion in world markets. Committees have been named to arrange details of a discussion with Rank. There was only meagre opposition on the council to Rank's proposal.

As reported in a London dispatch to MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 3, Rank's proposals envisaged a council consisting of representatives of producers, distributors and exhibitors for

(*Continued on page* 11)

Gov't Support for U.S. Films Abroad

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Interests of American film companies operating abroad will definitely receive stronger support from the Government after the war than ever before, through the revitalized motion picture section now being set up in the State Department, it was learned here today.

Details of the new organization have not yet been formally announced, but space for the section was left in the Telecommunications Division

(*Continued on page* 8)

Agnew Sets 4 Films In Para. Block No. 4

Paramount's fourth block for 1943-44 will contain four pictures, according to Neil F. Agnew, general sales manager.

The four are: "Going My Way", produced and directed by Leo McCarey and featuring Bing Crosby and Rise Stevens; "The Hour Before the Dawn", based on the Somerset Maugham book and featuring Franchot Tone, Veronica Lake and Binnie Barnes; "You Can't Ration Love", with Betty Rhodes and Johnnie Johnston, and "The Navy Way", a Pine-Thomas production filmed at the Great Lakes Naval Station with Robert Lowrey and Jean Parker.

Fromkess to Open PRC Meeting Here

Producers Releasing Corp. tomorrow will begin a four-day national sales convention, called by Leon Fromkess, vice-president. Lew J. McCarthy, general sales manager, will preside. The sessions will be held at the St. Moritz Hotel.

Fromkess will report on expanded production activities and outline a 1944-45 program to franchise holders, branch managers and sales representatives from the United States and Canadian exchanges.

Others who will attend are: George Bonwick, Joe Lamm, Armand Schneck and Sam Kestenbaum, from the PRC home office; franchise holders Henri Elman, Chicago; Ike Katz, Atlanta; George Gill, Washington; Nat Lefton, Cleveland; Andy Dietz, St. Louis; Joe Strother, Milwaukee; Joe Bohn, Indianapolis; Harry Katz, Charlotte; Lou and Milton Lefton, Pittsburgh; Harry Goldman, Boston.

Also: Phil Sliman, New Orleans; Sam Decker, Los Angeles; Abbott Swartz, Minneapolis; E. L. Walker and Harry McKenna, Oklahoma City; William Flemion, Detroit; Sidney Kulick, New York; B. F. Busby, Little Rock; John Muchmore and R. H. Patt, Kansas City; Bernie Mills and J. S. Berkson, Albany-Buffalo; J. H. Ashby, Denver; Jack Adams, Dallas; Herbert W. Given, Philadelphia; Sam Sobel, San Francisco and Lloyd V. Lamb, Seattle.

35% of MGM Owners Used 'Emergency 10'

More than 35 per cent of M-G-M's subsequent-run accounts have used the 10 previously-released pictures offered by the company to relieve picture shortages, it was learned here yesterday. The largest demand was in Eastern and Central territories.

When, several months ago, exhibitor leaders brought to the attention of Wm. F. Rodgers, general sales manager of M-G-M, that there was a shortage of pictures because of extended runs and because a lesser number of pictures were being produced, 10 former releases were made available. They were: "A Christmas Carol," "Northwest Passage," "Third Finger, Left Hand," "Escape," "Go West," "Flight Command," "Come Live With Me," "Billy the Kid," "The Big Store," "Love Crazy."

These were not made available as regular reissues, but for booking by M-G-M customers so affected.

RKO Air Program Over 20 Stations

RKO's radio program, over 20 stations of the Blue Network covering the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast areas, will start on Feb. 28. According to an announcement from the Blue, if the program, as yet untitled, proves successful from a production standpoint in this regional test, the program will be extended to the complete Blue network.

Personal Mention

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic Pictures' president, returned to his desk yesterday after a four weeks' sales trip.

•

LT. JOSEPH FLAHERTY, former assistant manager of the Capitol, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., last week became the father of a son born to MRS. FLAHERTY in the Wilkes-Barre Mercy Hospital.

•

M. J. O'TOOLE, public relations counsel of Comerford Theatres, Scranton, Pa., has been named an honorary member of the national panel of arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association.

•

HERMAN RUBIN, Paramount salesman in Philadelphia, announces the bar mitzvah of his son, MELVIN, at Rodelph Shalom Congregation in that city, Saturday.

•

SYDNEY HIRSHON has succeeded ROBERT M. WOLHEIM as field supervisor of Warners' film checking service in the Washington territory.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, will leave for the Coast Feb. 18. on a combined vacation and business trip.

•

DORIS CLINE, Eastern editor of *Movieland Magazine,* has left for two months in Hollywood.

•

DR. EUGENE FRENKE, producer, will return to Hollywood tomorrow.

LEWIS MILESTONE, director, arrived in New York yesterday.

•

MRS. LAURINA POLI NORLAN of New Haven, daughter of MRS. SYLVESTER Z. POLI, widow of the circuit operator, was married to SGT. CHARLES C. CLARE in West Haven, Conn., on Feb. 5.

•

TOM HOFFMAN of the Comerford Theatres is the father of a second son born to MRS. HOFFMAN this week in Scranton, Pa.

•

W. J. HEINEMAN, general sales manager for Samuel Goldwyn, arrived yesterday in Chicago on a tour of RKO exchanges.

•

JOE E. BROWN will arrive in New York on Monday from Italy, completing 150,000 miles of travel for U.S.O. Campshows.

•

PAUL SOSKIN, British producer who is here to work on one of his forthcoming pictures, is en route to Hollywood.

•

FRANK MORIN, Regal theatre manager, Hartford, is confined to his home with the flu.

•

HUMPHREY BOGART, Warner star, returned to New York yesterday from a ten-week USO-Camp Shows tour.

•

BERT CHOPIN, United Artists publicist, was a recent Hartford visitor.

Quiz Eight Majors In Griffith Case

Albert Boggess, Special Assistant U. S. Attorney General of Washington, will examine the corporate secretaries of the eight major companies on Feb. 28, in the offices of the Anti-Trust Division of the Justice Department in New York, in connection with the Government's anti-trust action against Griffith Amusement Co.; Consolidated Theatres, Inc.; L. C. and H. G. Griffith; R. E. Griffith Theatres, Inc.; Westex Theatres, Inc., and R. E. Griffith.

The action was instituted in the Western Federal District of Oklahoma on April 28, 1938, and the Government is preparing for trial.

Subpoenaes *duces tecum,* calling for the production of certain papers and documents believed to be in the possession of the eight majors, have been issued and served upon attorneys for all parties. The subpoenaes, returnable on Feb. 28 at the New York offices of the Justice Department, were directed to Leopold Friedman, secretary of Loew's, Inc.; Austin C. Keough, Paramount; Felix A. Jenkins, 20th Century-Fox; R. W. Perkins, Warner Brothers; J. Miller Walker, RKO Radio; Anthony Petti, assistant secretary of Universal; Charles Schwartz, secretary of Columbia, and Lloyd Wright, United Artists.

Final Conference on RKO Drive Tomororw

Final branch conference on RKO Radio's 1944 Ned Depinet drive will be held here tomorrow morning at the RKO New York exchange, presided over by drive captain Charles Boasberg and lieutenant Harry Gittleson who are expected to return tonight from a 39-day tour on behalf of the campaign.

Attending the meeting will be Metropolitan district manager Robert Wolff, sales staff members Phil Hodes, John J. Dacey, Lou Kutinsky, Harry Zeitels, E. T. Carroll and Charles Penzer; bookers Herman Silverman, Freda Laurie, Jean Slade, Dorothy Post, Jack Finkelstein and William Hartman; travelling auditor Jack de Waal and a delegation from the home office.

Warners' Earle to Reopen

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9.—Warners' Earle in Atlantic City, dark for years, will be re-opened at Easter time. The Earle, located away from the boardwalk, featured vaudeville when opened originally, and while the new policy has not yet been decided, it is likely that stage attractions may again be featured. The house was taken over by the Army Air Forces two years ago and returned to Warners last year after being used as a classroom for soldiers then stationed in Atlantic City.

N.J. Allied to Hear Gov. Edge and Solons

The annual legislative meeting of Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey will be held at the Stacy Trent Hotel, Trenton, on Monday with a large delegation of State dignitaries headed by Governor Walter Edge as guest speakers.

Arrangements for the meeting are in charge of Mrs. Helen Hildinger and Simon Myers. In addition to Gov. Edge, speakers will include: Attorney General Van Riper, Senator Howard Eastwood, president of the State Senate; Senator Bruce A. Wallace, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles Arthur W. McGee, Assemblyman Vincent S. Haneman, Assemblyman Arthur W. Lewis and Mayor Andrew J. Duch of Trenton, who is scheduled to present Harry Lowenstein, New Jersey Allied president, with the "key to the city."

Publicity Changes Made by 20th-Fox

Several changes have been made in 20th Century-Fox, home office publicity department, under Hal Horne, with the departure this week of Morton Freedgood of the writing staff for the Army. Eugene Schrott has been named by Jack Goldstein, Eastern publicity manager, to succeed Freedgood, and Charles Cohen, formerly of M-G-M, has been added to the writing staff.

A farewell luncheon was tendered Freedgood by his colleagues yesterday.

SAG Will Fight SPU Request for Election

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9.—The Screen Actors Guild has sent its Class "B" members a letter stating its intention to fight the petition filed by the Screen Players Union asking the National Labor Relations Board to order an election to determine which of them shall be the bargaining agent for extras.

The NLRB has set Feb. 15 for a hearing on the petition.

Boyer and Others to Make Film in London

William Sassoon of Two Cities Films, Ltd., London, who is now in this country is understood to have secured commitments from Julien Duvivier, Charles Boyer, Danielle Darrieux, Victor Francen and Jean Gabin to go to England from Hollywood later this year to appear in a film to be made by Two Cities under the sponsorship of the French Committee of Liberation.

Kelly Opens Office

Arthur W. Kelly, who on Tuesday resigned as vice-president of United Artists, effective tomorrow has opened offices here in the Guaranty Trust Company Building, 524 Fifth Ave.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.



Now again WARNERS take you Places

Jack L. Warner, *Executive Producer*

HUMPHRE

as Matrac, the Devoted

PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE

BY THE AUTHORS OF 'MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY'
WILL BEGIN ITS FIRST EXTENDED RUN
NEXT WEEK AT THE HOLLYWOOD N.Y.
..AGAIN AN ATTRACTION IN WHICH
IS COMBINED THE "GOOD CITIZENSHIP
AND GOOD PICTURE MAKING"* OF

Warner Bros.

*N. Y. TIMES

WITH THIS REMARKABLE .. SUPPPORTING CAST:

CLAUDE RAINS  MICHELE MORGAN  PHILIP DORN  SYDNEY

A HAL B WALLIS PRODUCTION

OGART





HELMUT DANTINE



PETER LORRE



GEO. TOBIAS



REET

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL CURTIZ

Support the Fourth War Loan!

Big Ad Budgets Cause Space Cuts In N. Y. Dailies

Rationing of motion picture advertising by New York dailies is as much the result of expanded advertising budgets of film companies and circuits, as it is of a newsprint shortage, newspaper ad managers indicated recently.

The *Herald-Tribune* and the *World-Telegram* have reduced amusement lineage about 10 per cent under last year. The *Times* may announce a similar move soon. Most other papers are arbitrarily slashing according to the amount of space requested.

Spokesmen for the publishers foresee little relief in prospect. Frequent mention of a possibility of the situation being eased is described as wishful thinking. Significant is the fact that all afternoon papers will suspend publication on Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12, and Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, to conserve newsprint, in the first general suspension for these holidays in the city's history.

New Ad Technique

Several apparent results of the situation already have evolved. Home office ad-copy and ad departments are developing the new technique of telling their stories in the smaller space available to them. Agencies are facing curtailed revenue in the newspaper amusement field, but advertisers are buying more time on the air for picture promotions.

Pearce Chauncey, *Herald-Tribune* amusement ad manager, said that approximately 10 per cent of the *Tribune's* advertising is amusement advertising. The figure runs much higher in some other papers. George Mulder, *Daily News* amusement ad manager, declared that his paper had not adopted any set rationing, "but had been forced to knock out a lot of copy that we couldn't handle." The *News* procedure, Mulder said, "is to call for advertising schedules before publication and then inform clients how much space the paper could handle." Mulder said that further space slashes on amusement ads will force film clients to shop elsewhere for space, such as is being done now by other advertisers.

Post Seeks Clients' Cooperation

Lawrence Goldreyer of the *Post* stated that "no formal rationing plans have been set, but discussions are proceeding along these lines." He revealed the *Post* is asking for clients' "cooperation" on any extended ad promotions and feels that the paper may be able to continue rotating such requests, as it has been doing for several months. Goldreyer indicated that amusement advertising in the *Post* runs fairly high and would be one of the last departments to be seriously affected.

Vernon Brooks of the *World-Telegram* said rationing has been instituted. "Every advertiser is taking a proportionate cut," Brooks said, "in accordance with the client's space last year. Max Ginsberg of the *Times* stated that a cut was definitely coming. In addition, the *Times* is "going easy" on large copy of the 1,000-line advance variety. It recently rejected one such ad from 20th-Fox on "Jane Eyre."

Herman Wintrich, amusement ad director, said the *Mirror* has been forced to hold down ad space on Saturdays. "Otherwise we are accepting any and all film advertising upon sufficient notice," he said. Neil Kingsley, the *Sun's* amusement ad head, said that the paper is not rationing film space as yet, adding: "We can accommodate all the advertising we can get, with only classified ads being cut up to now." Einar Petersen, general ad manager of the *Sun*, revealed that the paper has been able to hold its advertising space up by effecting economies in newsstand returns and not over-expanding its circulation.

Martin Dickstein, head of the *Brooklyn-Eagle* amusement department, said "we are not considering a reduction for the time being. We are able to accept any film advertising, but we can't predict what may come in the future."

"Lady in the Dark"

(*Continued from page* 1)

psychiatric, tracing to thwarted childhood days and the intemperance of her parents' handling. They are downright thoughtless of her sensitivities, the reactions seize hold and leave their imprint on her adult life.

BECAUSE the mother took her for granted and the father failed to think she was pretty, Ginger grows up to believe she is unattractive when the facts, widely known, are to the contrary. As a high school girl, a puppy love romance is rudely broken off by an inconsiderate boy and another mental hazard thereby set up in her mental processes.

The consequences take shape in her determination to remain plain and unadorned when her dream life clearly indicates she wants to be an enchantress and an alluring woman. Part of the matter-of-fact exterior propels her toward success in business. She becomes that, but finds her life an empty one and devoid of romance because she refuses to take another chance at being hurt. She thinks she loves Warner Baxter, her publisher, when actually she loves him as she did her father.

The psychoanalyst is the man who digs into her mind and pieces together the truth, aided by interpretations of her dreams. At the close, Miss Rogers falls in love with Ray Milland, the advertising manager she thought she despised. The chart of her emotional life has its snarls eliminated and the sailing thereafter is calm and happy.

This detail of the plot is necessary to shed some light on the kind of picture this happens to be. It is Freudian from start to finish and a decided problem in terms of wide understanding. The treatment seeks to simplify the explanation and the method of arriving at the root of the difficulty, and in generous measure is successful.

WHETHER successful enough is another matter. Many who see this attraction won't catch what the shooting is all about and yet it probably won't make much difference for these reasons:

The film has strong name power, including Jon Hall and Mischa Auer, and excellent performances, led off by Miss Rogers.

The lavishness of its production hand runs rampant throughout. Miss Rogers and others of the women in the cast are smart and chic to the last nylon. The sets are magnificent, the Technicolor superb, such comedy as there is clicks, and Ginger's delivery of the "Saga of Jenny" is top-class.

It is the combined weight of these elements which moves "Lady in the Dark" into the big money division even in the face of its experimental story line.

Mitchell Leisen, in his direction, catches the essentials of the vehicle and whips them into a breathtakingly beautiful froth. Richard Blumenthal is associate producer, but two other undeniable heroes of the event are Raoul Pené du Bois, who designed settings and costumes, and Ray Rennahan, who presided magnificently behind the camera.

Running time, 98 minutes. "G."* No release date set. RED KANN

*"G" denotes general classification.

'U' Employes Get Raise

BUFFALO, Feb. 9. — The War Labor Board here has ruled in favor of a weekly wage increase of from $2 to $7 for employes of the local Universal Exchange.

To Show War Dep't Film

The War Department will screen its new film, "The Negro Soldier," at the 20th Century-Fox home office on Monday, Feb. 14, at 2:45, Major General A. D. Surles, the Department's public relations head, has announced. The film, produced under the supervision of Col. Frank Capra, U. S. Army Signal Corps, runs for 42 minutes and depicts the role of the Negro in the Army.

RCA Preferred Dividend

Following a meeting of the RCA board of directors held here recently President David Sarnoff announced a dividend of 87½ cents per share on the outstanding $3.50 cumulative first preferred stock, for the period from Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 1944. The dividend is payable April 1 to holders of record at the close of business Mar. 3.

90 from SPG in Service

Ninety members of the Screen Publicists Guild formerly employed in home office publicity departments here are now in the Armed Forces.

Our Distaff Side Sees Women's Angles In 'Lady in Dark'

By HELEN McNAMARA

In "Lady in the Dark" Paramount has produced a film loaded with tremendous appeal for women. Exhibitors will find it expedient to highlight the fashion angle, by way of tie-ups with style-shows and lay-outs built around the wardrobes featured by Ginger Rogers, Phyllis Brooks and Mary Phillips. Fabulous dream sequences, done to perfection and destined to draw women customers literally "out of this world," will carry an unprecedented appeal for their exquisite color and accompanying brilliant musical score.

The theory of psychoanalysis dominates the film and the analyst's handling of Miss Rogers' problems, which may ring a familiar note for many women, offers another angle worthy of female promotional consideration. Women will find themselves unconsciously studying Miss Rogers and her situation, and comparing her problems with their own.

'Dream Clothes' Parade

The picture is filled with exploitation possibilities. No woman can turn from a parade of "dream clothes," which includes a fabulous mink evening dress and a ballet gown comprising 300 yards of lovely tulle among countless other original and exotic creations, without envisioning her own carcass inside them or them on the inside of her wardrobe. Presented in stunning Technicolor in settings that should make both W. and J. Sloane drool, the gowns, the cloaks and the suits will be likely to originate many a style in milady's wear that will help beautify the American home and avenues in the months to come.

Women will go to see the picture and will return to make further mental or even pencil notes on the clothes. Their men should go with them. They'll be better prepared for the shock when the bills begin to arrive from the couturiers.

F-P Canada Circuit Acquires Two More

TORONTO, Feb. 9. — Famous Players home office here has announced that the recently acquired Orpheum and Gayety Theatres, Montreal, will be operated by J. Arthur Hirsch and Alex Adilman of Consolidated Amusements, Ltd., Montreal, for FP, with both theatres continuing their present policies.

The Gayety, which is under lease, will continue its combination screen and stage shows. Hollywood French-dubbed features will be booked into the Imperial, Montreal, FP's first-run house. Previously the Orpheum was being considered for French films, produced by Warners and others.

FPC Appeal Allowed

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 9. — The Canadian War Labor Board has allowed the appeal of Famous Players Canadian Corp. against a British Columbia regional board ruling which granted two weeks holiday with pay to projectionists. The national board in Ottawa limited it to one week.

Up The Attack! 4th WAR LOAN!"

MADAME CURIE

Triumphant Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon welcomed at nationwide box-offices after 7 big Radio City Music Hall weeks!

A GUY NAMED JOE

Spencer Tracy, Irene Dunne set new 7-week Capitol N. Y. records. Watch this romance sweep America!

THOUSANDS CHEER

(Technicolor)

Starrific at the box-office and a joy to hold and hold! One of the industry's Biggest in years!

LOST ANGEL

New star, tiny Margaret O'Brien headed for fame and fortune. Word-of-mouth hit that's the Joy of the Year!

SONG OF RUSSIA

A Yank in Moscow. Dashing Robert Taylor woos Susan Peters and it's a wow! Nashville World Premiere sensational!

SWING FEVER

World Premiere at State on Broadway launches Kay Kyser's merry show to laugh-loving fans!

THE HEAVENLY BODY

Slick William Powell and sleek Hedy Lamarr in a riotous romantic lark. Watch Capitol, N. Y. audiences shriek with laughter!

RATIONING

Uproarious! Wally Beery and Marjorie Main will convulse the nation. Sure-fire fun for the rationed public!

BROADWAY RHYTHM

(Technicolor)

The company that made "Thousands Cheer" makes Millions Shout Hooray! Terrific Technicolor Musical Topper!

THE CROSS OF LORRAINE

Powerful! Big scale action film keeps audiences breathless with thrill! With Jean Pierre Aumont, Gene Kelly, Sir Cedric Hardwicke in great cast!

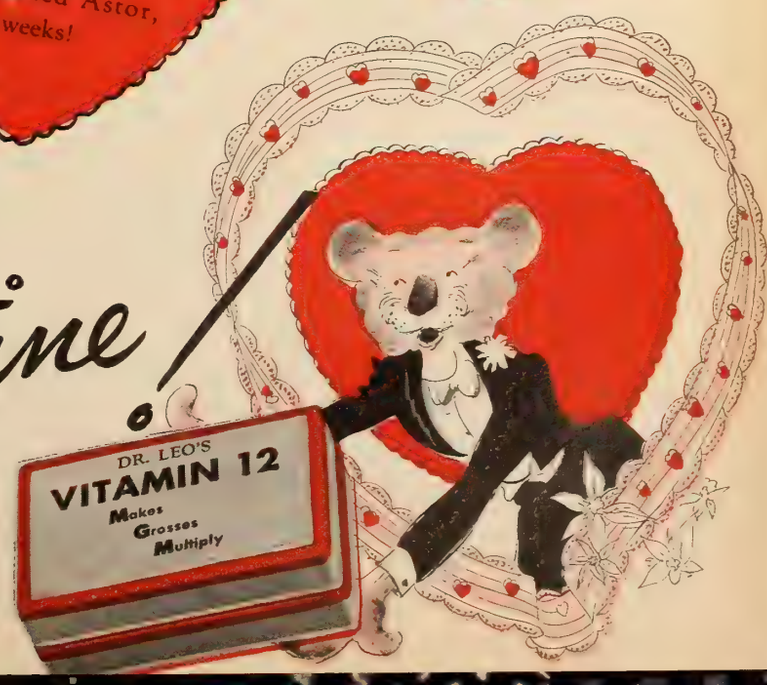
CRY HAVOC

Margaret Sullavan, Joan Blondell, Ann Sothern and all-female cast in the grand hit that packed Astor, N. Y. 7 weeks!

SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE

Watch Big World Premiere at Charlotte, N. C. The laughs of a nation from best-seller. Robert Walker scores!

Be My Valentine!



If You're Given a Luncheon, Film Is a 'Hit'—Wanger

The best barometer of the box office possibilities of a producer's latest effort is to be found in the kind of reception his distributor accords him on his first visit to New York thereafter, Walter Wanger indicated during an informal talk at a Hotel Astor luncheon yesterday given in his honor by Universal.



Walter Wanger

Wanger's "Gung Ho!" established an attendance and gross record in its first two weeks at the Criterion here, playing to more than 110,000 people in that time and grossing over $80,000 for the period.

Hopes Next Rates Dinner

"I didn't get a luncheon when I delivered 'We've Never Been Licked,'" Wanger commented, "and my artistic sensibilities were hurt. I hope my next picture will rate a dinner."
(his next is ladies courageous).

Becoming serious, Wanger characterized the past year as the greatest in industry history. Accomplishments in furtherance of the war effort, as well as in production, he said, should be a source of pride to all in the industry. He expressed the hope that the advances which have been made will be preserved and will be continued after the war.

Charles Moss, manager of the Criterion and also a guest of honor at the luncheon in recognition of the theatre's handling of the Wanger picture, thanked the producer on behalf of exhibitors for a "natural." Moss made the revelation to those present that he and W. A. Scully, Universal vice-president and general sales manager, were fellow alumnae and "letter men" of the same school—the Dale Carnegie Institute.

Among Those Present

Among those present at the luncheon were: Charles Prutzman, John J. O'Connor, Major Orton Hicks, Major John Hubbell, E. T. Gomersall, Samuel Machnovitch, Budd Rogers, Maurice Bergman, B. O. Moss, Terry Ramsaye, Tom Mead, Sherwin Kane, Hank Linet, Al Horwits, C. C. Moskowitz, Eugene Picker, Ernest Emerling, Tom O'Brien, Bernard Kreisler, Dave Levy, Fred Meyers, F. J. A. McCarthy, Morris Alin, William Formby, Al Steen, Mike Weir, Charles Kirby, Al Daff, Bob Wile, Adolph Schimel, F. T. Murray and Andrew Sharick.

Equity Is Distributor

Equity Film Exchanges, Inc., of New York is distributing "Ten Nights in a Barroom" and "The Great Train Robbery," plus some shorts, in a 'package' titled "The Good Old Days." The 'package' recently grossed $7,000 in a week's run at the St. Louis Theatre, St. Louis.

Gov't Support for U.S. Films Abroad

(Continued from page 1)

under Francis C. De Wolf in the reorganization of the Department announced Jan. 15.

Initially the motion picture work will require only a small staff, headed by George R. Canty, who represented the Department in film matters abroad for a number of years, but the end of the European phase of the war is expected to see a marked expansion which will bring into the service persons equipped to deal with the many problems of exchange, tariffs, regulations and quotas which are seen involved in the restoration of Europe.

Hull Stressed Postwar

In the reorganization of the Department last month, Secretary Hull laid dominant emphasis upon postwar problems and made it clear that the interest of United States nationals throughout the world will be given "unstinted support."

Currently, the most important film work is being done by the motion picture and radio division of the Office of Public Information, under John M. Begg, who supervises the distribution abroad of all films of an educational and information nature which are distributed through official channels, working in close cooperation particularly with the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

CBS Reports Net for 1944 of $4,535,000

Columbia Broadcasting System yesterday reported an anticipated net of $4,535,000, equivalent to $2.54 a share, for the year ended Jan. 1, 1944, compared to a net of $4,123,700, equivalent to $2.44 a share, for the previous year.

Frank K. White, CBS treasurer, said yesterday that the 1943 earnings are after providing $7,575,000 for estimated taxes, a tax increase of $3,225,000 over the previous year.

CBS directors yesterday declared a 40-cent per share dividend on the present class A and class B stock, of $2.50 par value, payable March 3 to stockholders of record Feb. 18.

RKO Gets Austrian Television Survey

Ralph B. Austrian, television-radio consultant for RKO, has completed a survey and analysis of both fields for RKO's board of directors.

Austrian was engaged as special consultant to develop a television and radio broadcasting policy by N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president last October. The purpose of the survey was to recommend the manner in which RKO could most advantageously employ these two mediums now and in the post-war.

Rockaway Twin Booking

FAR ROCKAWAY, L. I., Feb. 9.—The RKO circuit has broken in the Columbia and Strand here as a new day-and-date stand with twin bookings of Warner's "Old Acquaintance." Although this is the off season for the resort town, the last weekend gross was approximately double the usual take for a single house.

Film Will Pinch Hit For Sightseeing Tour

Oklahoma City, Feb. 9—When 5,000 state teachers convene here Feb. 17-18 they will make a tour of the city, but it will be in a theatre, where they will "see the sights" on a film produced by the gasoline-poor convention committee of the local Chamber of Commerce.

This substitution for the usual extensive tour was made possible by contributions from Chamber members who were prompted by transportation and gas shortages.

Setay Holdings to New InvestmentFirm

Assets and liabilities of Setay Co., Inc., have passed to the Associated Motion Picture Industries, Inc., with the exception of the latter's interest in Republic Pictures Corp. of Delaware. Associated's formation was revealed this week in a SEC announcement from Philadelphia. Officers of the new corporation include Samuel A. Adamson and Frederick R. Ryan of New York and John A. Pfeifer of Montville, N. J. The following are directors: Joseph D. Eagan, Carl B. Heine and Nat K. Loder of New York.

Associated's stockholders include Onsiud, Inc., Fort Lee, N. J., 21,597 shares of capital stock; J. E. Brulatour, Inc., Fort Lee, 16,178; Ryan, 504; Loder, 20, and Pfeifer, 2. J. E. Brulatour, Inc., also holds 318,317 three per cent notes of the new corporation.

Setay was an investment firm founded some years ago by H. J. Yates and associates—Setay is Yates in reverse.

Names Committee For Parsons Lunch

Vincent Trotta, president of Associated Motion Picture Advertisers, yesterday announced committee chairmen for the AMPA-sponsored luncheon, at the Waldorf here on Monday to be given in honor of Louella Parsons, motion picture editor of International News Service.

The following chairmen were named: Executive committee, Vincent Trotta, Rutgers Neilson; general, Neilson, Bob Montgomery; arrangements, James Dunn, Mel Gold; tickets, Dunn, Hap Hadley; publicity, William Ornstein, Dave Bader, reception, Aileen St. John Brenon, Hortense Schorr.

Earl Carroll Suit Vs. Para. Dismissed

Federal Judge Alfred C. Coxe yesterday dismissed here the $300,000 breach of contract and libel action filed by Earl Carroll against Paramount. The suit was based upon the film, "A Night at Earl Carroll's," which, according to Carroll, injured his reputation.

The breach of contract alleged was the crediting of Carroll as the film's producer, although, he maintained, he had nothing to do with the production. Costs were awarded to Paramount.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 9

MITCHELL RAWSON, Selznick publicity director for the past four months, has resigned, effective immediately.

•

Twentieth Century-Fox has become the third studio to pass the million-and-a-half war bond mark in the 4th War Loan drive, with a total buy of $1,665,238 to date. Warners has reported $1,925,000; M-G-M holds the lead with over $2,000,000. Chairman Sol Lesser of the independent studios' war finance committee, announced purchases totalling over $108,000 for the first three weeks of the drive. Agents have reported purchases of $55,000 by free-lance actors.

•

Henny Youngman has been signed by Abbott and Costello to appear in "A WAC, a WAVE and a SPAR," which they are producing in addition to appearing as the stars for Monogram release.

•

RKO has indefinitely deferred production of "Mamma's Bank Account" upon signing a contract with Oscar Hammerstein II and Richard Rodgers, to produce it on Broadway in the Spring.

•

Monogram's "Where Are Your Children?" opens on the top half of a double bill at Fox West Coast's first-runs, the Egyptian, Ritz and Los Angeles on Feb. 22.

•

Twentieth Century-Fox today appointed Lyle Wheeler, formerly with M-G-M, to replace James Basevi as art director.

•

RKO has purchased "Duel in the Sun," an original by Niven Busch, who will produce.

McLean Director of Canada Liberal Party

TORONTO, Feb. 9.—Allen G. McLean, who recently resigned as secretary of the National Film Board, has been appointed national director of the Canadian Liberal party. His resignation from the board, on which John Grierson is national film commissioner, followed that of L. B. Pearson.

Previously the House of Commons had tabled a report that the board derived revenue of $88,888 in theatre film rentals to May 31 of last year and had an operating cost of $306,531 for the fiscal year ending March 31. The theatre rental total covered approximately four years.

Pearson is also serving as counselor of the Canadian legation at Washington.

Names MPA Directors

Jack Ellis, manager of the New York exchange of United Artists, and vice-president of Motion Picture Associates, yesterday announced the following appointees to the MPA board of directors: Jack Bowen, Sam Rinzler, David Snaper, James Frank, Leo Abrams, Joseph Felder, Harold Klein, David Levy, M. Kurtz and Jack Hattem.

'Gung Ho' Hits Big $20,000 in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 9.—With unusually mild weather this week and the only legitimate theatre in town dark, good business prevailed at all first runs. "Gung Ho" at the Fox looks like a big $20,000 and "Lost Angel" at Loew's will hit $17,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 9:

"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"So's Your Uncle" (Univ.)
AMBASSADOR—(3,154) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $12,500).
"Around the World" (RKO)
"Career Girl" (PRC)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $8,000).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Jeannie" (English Films)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $16,900).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $16,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,400. (Average: $6,900).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
"Riding High" (Para.)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000).
"Mr. Muggs Steps Out" (Mono.)
"Spotlight Scandals" (Mono.)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000).

'Happy Land', Show, $16,000; Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 9.—"Happy Land" and a show featuring Hal McIntyre and orchestra are leading here this week with an expected $16,000, at the Circle. "No Time for Love" and "Mine Sweeper" at the Indiana will do $12,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 8-10:

"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $11,000).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Mine Sweeper" (Para.)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,500).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
"There's Something About a Soldier" (Col.)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $11,000).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, moveover from Indiana. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000).

4 Omaha Houses Get Smash $47,500

OMAHA, Feb. 9.—Downtown theatres here hit the jackpot this week with four houses drawing $47,500. Henry Busse's orchestra on the Orpheum stage, plus "Whistling in Brooklyn" was high with $17,400. "Lassie Come Home" drew $12,100 at the Paramount. Warm weather helped.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 9-10:

"What a Woman!" (Col.)
"Find the Blackmailer" (WB)
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $9,100. (Average: $5,500).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"The Seventh Victim" (RKO)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Paramount. Gross: $8,900. (Average: $6,900).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Henry Busse and orchestra on stage. Gross: $17,400. (Average: $14,900).
"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $12,100. (Average: $8,900).

'We Should Be Proud of Hollywood,' Says 'Liberty'

(*Continued from page* 1)

Hollywood pictures are shown all over the world. We Americans have more than 80 per cent of the world film market—and don't think other nations aren't casting sheep's eyes of envy at it. They are. Other countries subsidize their producers, in the hope that their pictures will be shown outside of the country. Hollywood, with no subsidies and no advertising, no support except the nickels and dimes of satisfied customers, has become one of America's big export industries.

Hollywood Needs Confidence

"I wish Hollywood would visit a good psychoanalyst and build up some confidence in its own worth. It has the worst collective sense of inferiority in the world today. For Hollywood is making history, under the curious misapprehension that it's making only dividends. It's creating the most powerful educational medium we've ever known—and it thinks it's turning out light entertainment for tired jitterbugs. It's spreading an understanding of American ideals throughout the world—and it imagines it's engaged in a cynical exploitation of "the foreign market." Yet this engaging naïveté about its own importance is combined with a terribly knowing sophistication about its primary job—the making of moving pictures into a major art," she said, adding: "Hollywood is the modern Florence. It's the town that children will learn about in future centuries as the place where the Golden Age of Moving Pictures began. It's going to be taken very seriously indeed, some day, by the great-grandchildren of the people who now say:

"'To think that those awful people should have so much power!"

"There's more being done to advance civilization on a single sound stage in Culver City than along the whole range of Park Avenue from the Grand Central to Ninety-sixth Street.

Tells Gossips the Truth

"It's high time that our American dinner-table gossips should be set right by some one, not on the Hollywood payroll, who'll tell them the truth. Well, I'm not on a Hollywood payroll, and this is the truth: Hollywood is developing a medium for the communication of democratic ideals to the whole world. It's fostering a better method of international understanding than any League has yet produced. It's maturing an art form that will be taken as seriously, some day, as painting or sculpture or music. Hollywood is doing a job of which every American should be immensely proud. It's accomplishing something no other town has ever done in the history of the world. And it's all ours.

"Ladies and gentlemen: Hollywood is colossal. Colossal? Hell, it's *good!*"

Decries U. S. 'Gag' Ill. Allied Officer On Decree Proposals

(*Continued from page* 1)

speech," Nomikos declared. "We should not be muzzled and we shall not be in the future. The mask of secrecy that covered the new consent decree should never again be imposed on us. The contents of any industry decree should be released openly for clarified interpretation so that we, as laymen, can understand it."

"The by-play on the decree in Washington," Nomikos added, "is costing the taxpayers of the United States a lot of money, and as yet no public benefit has resulted."

Numerous other Chicago independent exhibitors are expressing themselves privately in the same vein. Nomikos was a participant in the recent decree conference here.

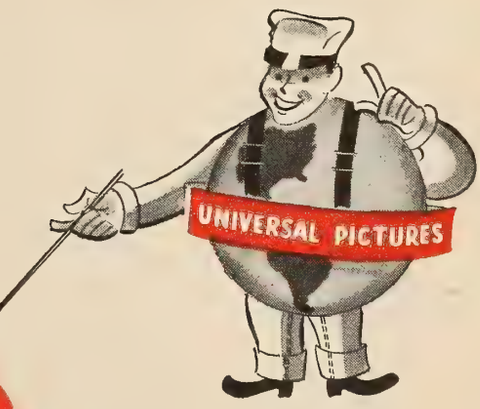
MOTION PICTURE DAILY learned recently that several of the attorneys for the decree companies, principals in the drafting of the new proposals, were in favor of meeting with the trade press for a general discussion of the new decree proposals, to clarify complex issues and to answer questions concerning the proposals in an effort to prevent "inaccurate and hearsay" interpretations from being publicized and circulated, but were unable to do so because of the imposition by the Department of Justice on them, too, of the secrecy "gag" concerning the proposals.

'Ali Baba' Is $6,900 Over in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 9.—With Sunday business second only to the record house day on "Shores of Tripoli," a few years ago, the Harris soared this week toward $16,500 on "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves." Elsewhere, business hovered around average.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 8-11:

"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,000)
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-60c) 3 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,617. (Average for week: $9,600).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $9,600).
"North Star" (RKO)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $20,000).
"Government Girl" (WB)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover after one week at the Penn, one at the Warner. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,000).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 3 days, 4th week, moveover after 2 weeks at the Harris. Gross: $1,056. (Average for week: $3,200).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover after 1 week, 3 days at the Harris. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,200).
"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
STANLEY — (3,800) (35c-50c-75c). On stage: 6 days of vaudeville, including Vaughn Monroe's band. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $22,700).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Penn. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,200).



QUESTION:
What has Universal got that no other company has?
ANSWER: Tomorrow

Short Subject Reviews

'Salt Lake Diversions'

(*M-G-M*)

An interesting James FitzPatrick Traveltalk, though not outstanding in the light of past Traveltalks. FitzPatrick takes the audience to the Mormon capital for a visit on the shores of the Great Salt Lake. The film is both interesting and educational. The beauty of the scenery is enhanced by Technicolor. Direction is adequate. Running time, 9 mins.

'No Mutton fer Nuttin'

(*Paramount*)

Paramount's new series of Technicolor "Noveltoons" is off to a good start with this one. It's about a wolf who has designs on a lamb. Visualizing some nice chops for dinner he chases the little black sheep all over the lot, but Blackie is too clever for the wolf and burns the beast's hovel to the ground. Nice entertainment, cleverly done with good music. Running time, 7 mins.

'Over the Wall'

(*Warner Bros.*)

Slightly overdone in places, "Over the Wall" is the story of a hardened criminal who softened under the guidance of a prison chaplain. Dane Clark, Tom Tully, Clarence Muse and William B. Davidson head the cast and each turns in a satisfactory performance, under direction of Jean Negulesco. Matt Taylor's story smacks of much sentiment but a couple of exciting sequences counteract in part. The film will round out a single feature. Running time, 20 mins.

'Who's Hugh'

(*Columbia*)

Hugh Herbert neglects his wife, then trails her to Palm Springs when she tries to step out on him. He crawls under a table, where she is seated with a male friend. When discovered, Hugh is chased in and out of hotel rooms by a growing series of jealous husbands. Insane but hilarious. Running time, 16 mins.

'Grand Canyon—Pride of Creation'

(*M-G-M*)

This is one of the finest of the Fitzpatrick Traveltalks. The color camera has caught all the beauty of the Grand Canyon as it follows a group of sightseers down the steep trail that leads to the floor of the chasm. The musical score is excellent, adding much to the film. The commentary is good, as usual. Running time, 9 mins.

'New Orleans Blues'

(*Universal*)

This is another musical short with nothing to distinguish it from its predecessors. Louis Prima's band is featured and Ray Eberle sings "All or Nothing at All." Entertaining for jazz-addicts. Direction adequate. Running time, 15 mins.

'Joe' Grosses $500,000

"A Guy Named Joe" rolled up more than $500,000 at the Capitol here at the end of its seventh and final week last night, according to M-G-M.

Showmanship Flashes

Extensive Ad Drive Ushers in 'Bondage'

The recent world premiere of Monogram's "Women in Bondage," at the Palace Theatre, Milwaukee, was accompanied by an extensive publicity campaign planned and executed by Harold S. Fitzgerald, general manager of the Wisconsin Amusement Enterprises, assisted by Jim Schiller, West Coast exploiteer for Monogram.

Starting with 100 lines five days before the opening, newspaper ads on the day of the premiere utilized 600 lines. Twenty-four sheets were in abundance, 500 streamers were posted in store windows and a giant banner, advertising the opening, was strung across Wisconsin Ave., the first one of its kind permitted by the city.

Gertrude Michael, H. B. Warner and Rita Quigley, cast members, who came from Hollywood for personal appearances on the opening night, were met by Milwaukee newspaper and radio people in Chicago and interviewed on the train trip back to Milwaukee. Radio appearances were also made by the players.

Nashville Made 'Johnny Come Lately' Conscious

NASHVILLE, Feb. 9. — Tom Delbridge, manager of Loew's Vendome Theatre here, achieved effective tieups for the opening of United Artists "Johnny Come Lately." All local newsstands carried special cards tieing up the issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* containing the James Cagney story. Delivery trucks displayed posters plugging the "Johnny" run and arranged for war poster contests in various plants.

Rolnick Promoting Warner Stars Hat Tieups

Harry Rolnick, president of Byer-Rolnick Co., has an exclusive Warner tieup for increased promotional activities on Resistol Hats in connection with Warner stars. Forthcoming national advertising and exploitation of the hat firm will feature Errol Flynn, Paul Henreid, John Garfield, Humphrey Bogart, Dennis Morgan, Walter Huston and Helmut Dantine with credit lines for their latest films

'Lucky' Wishing Well Installed in Lobby

Norman Wrobel of the RKO Grand, Chicago, installed a "Mr. Lucky Wishing Well" in his lobby to publicize that film. Patrons were asked to toss in small change for a servicemen's fund.

Small Town Does Big Job on 'So Proudly'

"So Proudly We Hail," in Middlesboro, Ky., was the subject of a tieup with the Red Cross which enabled manager Harry Stearn to get a prominent window display in conjunction with patriotic movements of the ARC. Street corners throughout Middlesboro were stencilled with the name, date and place of the showing of the picture. A special front containing heads of Colbert, Goddard and Lake covered the box office and doors of the theatre and extended to the lobby ceiling; streamers were strung across the lobby.

Calves in Auction Boost 'This Is Army'

G. Martini of the Martini Theatre, Galveston, Texas, made $750, boosted business considerably for "This Is the Army" by auctioning off two Hereford bull calves, rugs, lamps, dishes and many other articles. His campaign included band concerts for five days in advance of the premiere; a mile-long parade on the day of the opening and a display of army equipment, manned by soldiers, in the center of both streets adjoining the theatre. Radio broadcasts in front of the house carried interviews with civilians and army officers. The marquee was decorated with flags which were strung across the street from the house. The stage was decorated in appropriate fashion and the house entrance was set off with a flag and bunting-covered canopy and a decorated band stand.

'Salute' Gets Marine Welcome

For the Houston, Texas, premiere showing of "Salute to the Marines" a Marine platoon staged a drill exhibition, assisted by a corps of Civilian Defense Guard members. A number of high-ranking officers and five "leatherneck" heroes participated. A local high school band furnished music for the program.

Dance Contest with 'Sky's the Limit'

RKO exploiteer Al O'Camp and the management of the Seattle Paramount arranged a tieup with the Trianon ballroom and highlighted the screening of "The Sky's the Limit" with a dance contest. Winners received a silver cup and cash prizes; theatre passes went to runners-up.

Phila. Houses Will Get Break on Taxes

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9. — Several large theatres here will pay much less taxes this year as a result of lower assessments agreed to after recent real estate evaluations, it was disclosed by the Board of Revision of Taxes. Warners' Mastbaum, assessed at $1,218,300 last year, was re-valued at $1,197,400.

Other houses benefiting by cuts are the Fox, evaluated at $47,600 less than last year; the Stanley, assessed at $597,000 last year and now taxed on $528,300; the Aldine, from $501,300 to $471,000, and the Boyd, from $527,200 to $492,700.

Soviet-Canadian Amity Through Films

TORONTO, Feb. 9.—Means of furthering relations between the Soviet and Canada was the purpose of a meeting of the Film Committee of the National Council for Canadian-Soviet Friendship held here recently in the board room of Famous Players Corporation. Chief discussions was on the possible wider appeal of Soviet films with English dialogue.

At the meeting were: Dr. Malcolm Ross, executive director of the Council; Morris Stein, Max Chic and J. J. Fitzgibbons, Famous Players; N. A. Taylor, 20th Century Theatres; Alf W. Perry, Empire-Universal; Jack Karr, Toronto *Daily Star*, and Hye Bossin.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Feb. 9

JANE POWELL, 14-year-old singer under contract to M-G-M but starred by Charles Rogers on a loan out deal as the feminine lead in his "Song of the Open Road," now in production for United Artists release, will be starred in a second Rogers' production soon. The producer has completed arrangements with the player's home studio for another loan-out under which he will spot her in the star role of a vehicle yet to be decided upon. Rogers is also planning to use several other prominent players, among them Regis Toomey.

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Robert Fellows, producer of "Manhattan Serenade," second Sinatra picture for RKO, is surrounding "The Voice" with comedians and beautiful girls. Latest feminine player added to the cast is Rosemary LaPlanche, whose option was recently renewed by the studio. . . . Monogram has changed the title of "Detective Kitty Kelly" to "Detective Kitty O'Day."

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Executive producer Armand Schaefer has assigned associate producer Edward White to Republic's Jap atrocity picture, "The Death March," scheduled to go before the cameras Feb. 22, with Anthony Mann directing. . . . Gil Lamb, angular comedian, will play the dullish fiance of Claudette Colbert in "Practically Yours," being produced by Harry Tugend from the Norman Krasna original.

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When David O. Selznick's "Since You Went Away" is screened there will be eight players given star billing. They are: Claudette Colbert, Joseph Cotten, Jennifer Jones, Shirley Temple, Monty Woolley, Charles Coburn, Lionel Barrymore and Robert Walker. He plans to have a show of from three to four hours in length.

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George Cukor is putting final editing touches on "Gaslight," Ingrid Bergman-Charles Boyer starrer, in preparation for press previewing early in February. . . . Paramount has given Preston Sturges' "Triumph Over Pain," a final title; it is "Great Moment." . . . Eleanor Powell is doing a "Pin Ball Dance" in "Sensations of 1944." Each time her dancing figure hits a decorative pin affair, it lights up just as on the machines in cigar stores when the player makes a score . . . Columbia has signed Dalton Trumbo to write a screenplay from I. A. R. Wylie's original story, "Storm in April."

'Arms' To Be Shown

Samuel Goldwyn's "Up in Arms" will be trade-screened throughout the country on Feb. 21st, it was announced yesterday by Ned E. Depinet, president of RKO Radio Pictures. There will be no trade showings in New York and Los Angeles on that date, since the picture was shown here and on the Coast last week.

Blair on 'Lady' Tour

Rufus Blair of Paramount's studio publicity staff, will leave today on a tour of 17 key cities in connection with "Lady in the Dark," for Sunday newspaper film and feature sections.

British Owners Back Rank's World Plan

(Continued from page 1)

the purpose, firstly, to combat attempts at governmental control; secondly, to establish the British industry's position in the nation on a higher plane by winning confidence for its ideals and sense of responsibility.

Rank recently conferred with Francis W. Baker and Henry Simpson, presidents, respectively, of the Kinematograph Renters Society and the CEA, during which he announced his proposals. Both presidents have expressed their desire to see the achievement of a joint conciliation committee to end exhibitor-distributor bickering and, consequently, Rank's plan met with their approval.

Exhibitor Support Assured

Assurance of exhibitor support for Rank was secured by his pronouncement that he would fight for legislation favoring regulation of future speculative building which threatened the extinction of the small exhibitor.

Rank's conflict with governmental control came to a head recently when the British Board of Trade's film council appointed four of its members to "investigate measures necessary to counteract the danger of a film monopoly." The investigation is ostensibly directed at Rank's interests.

Meanwhile the CEA council approved a Ministry of Pensions scheme to train disabled soldiers as projectionists. The council rebuked trade union sponsors of the Managers Federation for using intemperate language in attacking the CEA. Its forecasted non-recognition of the Federation has been amply fulfilled, the CEA feels.

At a "secret" CEA meeting it was decided to elect Sidney Clift, president, and George Scarborough of Leicester, vice-president, for the ensuing year.

Grants Examination To J. J. Theatres

Supreme Court Justice Charles B. McLaughlin here today granted the motion of J. J. Theatres, operator of the Times Theatre, New York, for the examination before trial of a number of major executives and others named in the monopoly action filed by J. J. The examinations, including an inspection of books and records, are to take place between Feb. 16 and March 6, Justice McLaughlin ruled.

In addition to the eight majors, defendants include William and Harry Brandt, Max Cohen, Anwell Amusement Corp., Helgus Corp., Andear Amusement Corp. and Iris Joyce, Inc., operators of four theatres in the Times Square area. The suit charges a monopoly in the distribution of films in the area.

Para. 'Wassell' Abroad

Paramount's Cecil B. DeMille production, "The Story of Dr. Wassell," will be released in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales before it reaches many key spots in the United States as a result of arrangements made by David Rose, the company's managing director in Great Britain, while in Hollywood.

10,000 Managers Already In 'Honored 100' Contest

(Continued from page 1)

been able to keep in touch with the progress of the competition through the "Honored Bondsmen of the Day" feature, which has given a cross-section check of the nation's theatres.

Skouras to Compile Guide For Future Loan Drives

Many of the 12 top ranking industry executives, who toured the country on behalf of the national campaign committee of the 4th War Loan drive, have returned to New York. They are now making reports to Charles P. Skouras, national chairman, who will have them compiled to serve as a guide and pattern for all future war loan drives in which the industry will participate with the Treasury.

The committee comprises George Dembow, Robert Mochrie, Herman Wobber, Leonard Goldenson, George J. Schaefer, Dan Michalove, Joseph R. Vogel, Major Leslie Thompson, Oscar Doob, John Harris, Gradwell L. Sears and Harry Kalmine.

Wobber was delayed in getting to the field because of the recent sudden death of Arch Bowles in San Francisco. Others who have not yet made their tours are Sears and Kalmine.

All who have returned praised the work being done by exhibitors throughout the country and also acclaimed the cooperation extended to exhibitors by exchangemen.

'25 Angry Minutes' Radioed to Theatres

A Blue Network program described as "25 Angry Minutes", built to bring home to America the impact of enemy atrocities, was heard by motion picture audiences throughout the nation last night as a part of the 4th War Loan drive.

Feature of the program was an Arch Oboler play, "It's Happening to Me", with four sequences: Germans shipping women of occupied countries into soldier camps, Army and Navy revelation of Jap atrocities, death train rides through Poland, and the elimination of the aged in the new world order.

The cast was headed by Paul Muni, Thomas Mitchell, Fay Holden, Martha Scott, Robert Young and Lucille Watson. Expressions of thanks to the stars, the Hollywood studios and the theatres were read on behalf of Charles P. Skouras, national bond drive chairman for the industry, and Ted Gamble, chairman of the Treasury Department's war finance division.

Nine Loew's Houses Ahead of Seat Quotas

Nine Loew's theatres have already passed their seat quotas in the 4th war Loan drive. New York houses over the top are: the Astor, with 1,905 bonds sold, totaling $138,025; American, 3,260 bonds, $273,325; Paradise, 4,175 bonds, $232,225; Boro Park, 3,155 bonds, $413,305; and the Kameo, 1,857 bonds, $200,935. Out-of-town theatres: Loew's Poli Palace, Meriden, Conn., 3,079 bonds, $198,732; Columbia Theatre, Washington, 2,384 bonds, $122,350; State, Norfolk, 2,596 bonds, $315,126; and the Regent, Harrisburg, with 1,546 bonds.

Loew's in-town theatres report 4,331 free admissions on "Free Movie Day," Monday.

Paramount People Buy 2 Flying Fortresses

"Times Square, U.S.A.," and "Tornado" are the names of the Flying Fortresses sponsored through Bond purchases of Paramount and its employes, a Paramount Pep Club meeting here was told this week.

John Whitney Richmond, deputy state administrator of the War Finance Committee, presented pictures of the bombers to Walter B. Cokell, Paramount treasurer. Cokell said that the Treasury's two-week extension of the campaign for E, F and G bonds makes it possible to redouble efforts for the next three weeks.

Industry Helps Put Alaska Over the Top

The industry's 4th War Loan Drive in Alaska helped in putting the territory over its quota, according to a telegram received at national WAC headquarters here from Katherine Nordale, chairman of the War Finance Committee in Juneau. She reported also that the Capitol Theatre there had sold 250 per cent of its quota in the "Honored 100" drive.

Clark Gets Owners' Decree Proposals

(Continued from page 1)

meeting, consisting of Abram F. Myers and Col. H. A. Cole of Allied; Jesse Stern of the Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors of New York; Robert Poole of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, and William Crockett of the MPTO of Virginia, spent an hour and a half at the Department of Justice leaving with Clark a 30-page brief which was completed yesterday at a meeting of the committee in Myers' offices.

Members of the group refused to disclose the contents of their prepared statement pending study of the document by Clark, but indicated that it covered the distributors' proposals comprehensively, giving the independents' viewpoint separately on each major provision.

Today's conference was the second between Clark and representatives of the theatre owners, he having discussed the matter yesterday with Harry Brandt and other members of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York. It is expected that the views of MPTO will be submitted in the near future.

The Allied group brief constituted the first formal presentation of the exhibitors, who have been waiting for some months for an opportunity to pass on distributors' proposals. It contained suggested alternative proposals for consideration by the Department.

'Our Town' Reissued

Sol Lesser's "Our Town," released through United Artists in 1940, will be reissued nationally.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 204 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

FLOYD W. DAVIS, El Dorado Theatre, El Dorado, Kan.
DON GLOVER, Audian Theatre, Pullman, Wash.
H. E. BEARDEN, Desert Theatre, Hawthorne, Nev.
LEWIS W. MOORE, Lyric Theatre, Havre, Mont.
W. R. KEMP, Capitol Theatre, Grand Island, Neb.
J. D. RICHARDSON, Rialto Theatre, South Pasadena, Cal.
KNOX LAMB, Crim Theatre, Kilgore, Tex.
CARL BEALS, Strand Theatre, Skowhegan, Mich.
MURRY LAFAYETTE, Haven Theatre, Olean, N. Y.
J. R. MACEACHRON, Paramount Theatre, Jackson, Tenn.
FRANCIS J. FAILLE, Paramount Theatre, N. Adams, Mass.
WILLIAM F. LAFFERTY, Circle Theatre, Philadelphia.
PAULINE NELSON, Grand Theatre, Preston, Ida.
HARRY C. SWAN, Washington Theatre, Granite City, Ill.
CHARLES COX, Tivoli Theatre, Jersey City.

Industry Red Cross Goal Is 10 Millions

(Continued from page 1)

Red Cross, the period for the drive in theatres had been set for the week of March 23 to March 29.

Bernhard pointed out that with an invasion imminent, the Red Cross is asking for unlimited quotas and is counting heavily on industry contribution. Local cooperation between exhibitors and the Red Cross, says Bernhard in a letter to 16,500 theatres, is being emphasized. Last year film theatres collected more than $3,000,000, while an additional $1,000,000 was contributed directly by other branches of the industry.

Norman H. Davis, national chairman of the American Red Cross, in a letter being sent to 3,700 local chapters, pays tribute to the film industry's cooperation.

"Last year's experience," says Davis, "amply demonstrates that the benefits from 'Red Cross Week' in American motion pictures are many. Literally millions of people gave a second time; other millions never reached by personal solicitation responded to an appeal from the screen.

"Since all local quotas constitute minimum goals, we believe that theatre collections should be conducted in every community during the fourth week in March, even though the minimum goal may have been reached or exceeded in the community," he says.

Grief Promoted

Edward Grief of NBC's press department here and formerly of the editorial staff of MOTION PICTURE DAILY, has been promoted to NBC feature editor.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 15	THE RACKET MAN Tom Neal Jeanne Bates Hugh Beaumont D—64 mins.	(Second Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)	WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN Jackie Cooper D—72 mins. (302)	(Second Block) RIDING HIGH (Technicolor) Dorothy Lamour Dick Powell Victor Moore M—89 mins. (4307)		PRIDE OF THE PLAINS Bob Livingston Smiley Burnette O	(First Block) A LADY TAKES A CHANCE Jean Arthur John Wayne C—(405)		THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS Anna Sten Kent Smith D—79 mins.	ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES (in Technicolor) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—87 mins. (8003)	
Jan. 22	SWING OUT THE BLUES Bob Haymes Lynn Merrick M—70 mins.	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	SULTAN'S DAUGHTER Ann Corio C—64 mins. (888) WESTWARD BOUND O—(362) VODOO MAN Bela Lugosi D		NABONGA Buster Crabbe Fifi D'Orsay Barton MacLane D—73 mins. (408)	HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Roy Rogers O—74 mins. (341) ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RHYTHM Gene Autry (Re-issue) O (3301)	A LADY TAKES A CHANCE Jean Arthur John Wayne C—(405) THE FALLEN SPARROW Maureen O'Hara John Garfield D—(401)	UNCENSORED (Made in England) Phyllis Calvert Griffiths Jones D—83 mins. (418)		SPIDER WOMAN Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce Gale Sondergaard D—62 mins. (8021)	
Jan. 29	BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKE Joan Davis John Hubbard C—74 mins.	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)	WHAT A MAN Johnnie Downs C—66 mins. (228) RAIDERS OF THE BORDER Johnny Mack Brown O—(352)	HENRY ALDRICH HAUNTS A HOUSE Jimmy Lydon Charles Smith John Litel C—73 mins. (4306)		WOMEN IN WAR Elsie Janis D	ADVENTURES OF A ROOKIE Wally Brown Allen Carney C—(402)	LIFEBOAT Talullah Bankhead William Bendix D—96 mins. (419)	KNICKER-BOCKER HOLIDAY Nelson Eddy Charles Coburn D	PHANTOM LADY Franchot Tone Ella Raines Alan Curtis D—87 mins.	
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE COWBOY CANTEEN Charles Starrett O—72 mins.	A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)					THE SEVENTH VICTIM Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(403)			SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D—63 mins.	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	MINESWEEPER Richard Arlen Jean Parker D—67 mins. (4308)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—67 mins. (409)		SO THIS IS WASHINGTON Lum & Abner C—(404)	(Feb. Releases. No definite date set) JANE EYRE Joan Fontaine Orson Welles D—96 mins.	THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D—94 mins. (8066)	THIS IS THE ARMY (Regular release) George Murphy Joan Leslie M—115 mins. (224)
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—(418)		(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)		CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins. (333)	(Second Block) THE IRON MAJOR Pat O'Brien D—85 mins. (406)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D—111 mins.		WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D—63 mins.	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—115 mins. (419) SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—(420)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315) ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)	FRONTIER OUTLAW Buster Crabbe O—(462)	BENEATH WESTERN SKIES Bob Livingston "Smiley" Burnette O—56 mins. (354)	GANGWAY FOR TOMORROW Margo Robert Ryan D—(407) GOVERNMENT GIRL Olivia De Havilland Sonny Tufts D—(408)	(March Release. No definite date set) PURPLE HEART Dana Andrews Tala Birell D	IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M	
Mar. 4		THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)	LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE Lionel Atwill Joan Parker D—(414)		GILDERSLEEVE ON BROADWAY Harold Peary Billie Burke C—65 mins. (409)	4 JILLS IN A JEEP Carole Landis Martha Raye Dick Haynes C	VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	CROSS YOUR FINGERS Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett C	FRISCO KID (Re-issue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11	HEY ROOKIE! Ann Miller Joe Besser Larry Parks C	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)		HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	THUNDERING GUN SLINGERS Buster Crabbe Al "Fuzzy" St. John O—(463)	MOJAVE FIREBRAND Wild Bill Elliott G. "Gabby" Hayes 55 mins.—(377)	THE FALCON AND THE CO-EDS Tom Conway Jean Brooks D—(410)			LADIES COURAGEOUS Loretta Young Geraldine Fitzgerald Phillip Terry D	PASSAGE TO MARSEILLES Humphrey Bogart Claude Rains D—110 mins.
Mar. 18	TWO-MAN SUBMARINE Tom Neal Ann Savage J. Carroll Naish D	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)					NORTH STAR Anne Baxter Walter Huston Dana Andrews D—105 mins. (451)		SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Bonita Granville C	KELLY TAKES OVER Harriet Hilliard Eddie Quillan Ozzie Nelson's Orchestra Jack Teagarden's Orchestra	
Mar. 25	SUNDOWN VALLEY Charles Starrett Jeanne Bates Walter "Dub" Taylor O—55 mins.	MADAME CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)		TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)							

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4th WAR LOAN DRIVE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

A Bond for Every Seat!

VOL. 55. NO. 30 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1944 TEN CENTS

Theatres Give Eight-Point Decree Draft

Independents Program Is Revealed by Stern

By MILT LIVINGSTON

The conferences of independent exhibitors, comprising Allied States and several unaffiliated regional exhibitor organizations, has presented an eight-point program for revision of the consent decree to the Department of Justice in Washington, it was revealed here yesterday by Jesse L. Stern, president of the Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors of New York. Stern was a participant in the recent decree discussions of the conference in Chicago and this week accompanied the independent exhibitor delegation which presented the recommendations of the conference to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark in Washington.

The independent exhibitor organizations, Stern said, recommended that

(*Continued on page 8*)

Plan Promotion for Films' 50th Year

A campaign of institutional promotion geared to the 50th anniversary of the first public showing of a motion picture will be launched by the industry's Public Relations Committee at least a month in advance of the event, on April 14, it was disclosed here yesterday following the weekly meeting of the committee's Eastern division.

Details of financing the project and the appointment of a special committee to handle it will be completed by

(*Continued on page 12*)

Walker to Preside At Parsons Luncheon

James J. Walker will be the toastmaster at the luncheon in honor of Louella Parsons, motion picture editor of International News Service, to be given on Monday by the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers at the Waldorf, Vincent Trotta, president, announced yesterday.

Variety Honors Parsons

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—The local Variety Club will sponsor a luncheon Tuesday at the Sherman Hotel in honor of Louella Parsons, motion picture editor of International News Service.

Monogram 25% Over Quota—Johnston; Greenblatt Signed

Monogram will exceed by at least 25 per cent its sales quota for 1943-44, it was revealed yesterday by W. Ray Johnston, president, upon his arrival in New York from Hollywood, to preside at Eastern regional sales meetings scheduled to take place at the Hotel Warwick tomorrow and Sunday, and to outline with Steve Broidy, sales manager, plans for the Johnston-Broidy sales drive commemorating their joint 50 years in the industry.



Arthur Greenblatt

Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager, yesterday announced that Monogram has engaged Arthur Greenblatt, formerly general sales

(*Continued on page 12*)

'Bondbardiers' to Return to Coast

Following completion of bond-selling tours in the East, a group of Hollywood stars, including Jeannette MacDonald, Lucille Ball, Leslie Brooks, Edgar Buchanan and Lee Bowman will leave New York tomorrow for Hollywood. Accompanying them will be Eddie Manson, company manager.

Jinx Falkenburg, another of the "Bondbardiers," now recuperating from a recent appendectomy, will return to the Coast Feb. 23.

RANK'S U. S. FILM PLANS COMPLETED

Bernhard and WAC Executives to Meet On Red Cross Drive

Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Theatres, and chairman of the War Activities Committee theatres division in the 1944 Red Cross drive, will return to New York tonight from the Coast, to call an executive committee meeting for Monday to discuss opening phases of the industry's Red Cross campaign. Si Fabian, WAC chairman; Arthur L. Mayer, and Francis S. Harmon will attend with several others.



Joseph Bernhard

At the meeting Bernhard will consider the set-up of an administrative staff to conduct the drive. Other subjects for discussion include: a special trailer for theatres; a press book, radio tie-ups and other promotional activities.

Also discussed will be plans for a series of regional exhibitor-meetings at which heads of local Red Cross chapters and theatre men will coordinate their activities.

Kelly in Charge Here; All Key Rank Films to Be Sent to U. S.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—J. Arthur Rank announced here today that he had completed his plans for American distribution of all important British productions sponsored by him. He declined to amplify the statement, but it is assumed here that he will set up his own distribution organization in the United States.

Earlier today Rank announced the appointment of Arthur W. Kelly as head of the American organization, and named E. T. Carr to take charge in London. (Kelly has opened offices in the Guaranty Trust Building, New York). Both appointments are in line with the establishment of a worldwide distribution system for Rank product.

Kelly resigned earlier this week as vice-president of United Artists, in

(*Continued on page 12*)

Seek to Avert N.Y. Exchange Strike

Richard Walsh, IATSE international president, and Joseph D. Basson, IATSE official, met here yesterday with exchange operations heads of the eight majors to seek a solution to problems causing a strike call for Sunday midnight by New York Local B-51, representing some 350 "backroom" exchange employees.

The formula for a settlement under discussion is believed to be one which would give the workers an ex-

(*Continued on page 8*)

WPB Sees Retention of Film Stock Allocations

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—No relaxation of the raw-stock conservation order may be expected before the final quarter of this year, at the earliest, but on the other hand there is no indication that further curtailment of allocations will be necessary, it was disclosed here today by War Production Board officials. When and to what extent the allocations will be lifted, it was said, will depend upon the course of the war in Europe.

Maintenance of the present status of film allocations will be in line with announcements by the WPB, frequent-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Only 238 Features Delivered by April

A total of 238 features, 17 more than half of those promised, will be delivered by April, the end of eight months of the 1943-44 season, *Motion Picture Herald* will say today. Eleven companies promised a minimum of 442 films for the year, lowest in decades.

Besides the 238 features, 95 have been completed and 46 are shooting, totaling a backlog of 141, largest amount of product in reserve in years.

(*Continued on page 12*)

Further Decree Revisions Expected

Washington, Feb. 10.—Further revision of the distributors' consent decree proposals to provide, among other things, for a flat 20 per cent cancellation, is expected to be asked by the Department of Justice in the near future, it was learned today. Several other important changes also will be asked.

Personal Mention

Y FRANK FREEMAN, Paramount vice-president in charge of studio operations, will leave for Hollywood today.

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ROBERT STERNBERG, district manager of M. & P. Theatres, Boston, and HARRY BROWNING, ad-publicity director, conferred in New York yesterday with Paramount executives.

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JACK R. MCPHERSON of the New York office of National Screen Service is spending a week in Chicago on business.

•

ROBERT E. RUSSELL, manager of the Loew's Poli, New Haven, will celebrate his 25th anniversary with the Poli circuit Monday.

•

CORP. MORRIS MENDELSOHN, former attorney with Loew-Poli theatres in New Haven, is now stationed in Honolulu.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists Western division manager, is expected back in New York today from Chicago.

•

BILLY WILDER, Paramount writer-director, and MRS. WILDER, will arrive here Monday from Hollywood to remain for three weeks.

•

FRED MEYERS, Universal Eastern division sales manager, is in Cleveland today.

•

GEORGE LANDERS of the E. M. Loew circuit in Hartford, is in Boston on business.

•

ARTHUR SILVERSTONE, 20th-Fox international department executive, arrived in London this week.

•

LEON D. NETTER, Paramount theatre executive, has returned to New York from Charlotte.

•

WILLIAM ERBB, Paramount's New England district manager, was a New York visitor yesterday.

•

HARRY and WILLIAM BRANDT left yesterday for a Miami vacation.

•

RAY MURRAY, Columbia trade press contact, is on the sick list.

•

SAM JAFFE, 20th-Fox producer, left New York today for the Coast.

Talent Group Aids Drive

A committee functioning under supervision of the amusement industry division, headed by B. S. Moss, has been formed to enlist support of talent agencies for the drive of the Boy Scouts of America. Committee presently consists of Leon Kellman, William Morris Agency; Charles Yates of Fredericks Bros.; Morris Schrier of MCA, and Eddie Doran of General Amusement Corp. Campaign goal is $500,000 for amusements' participation.

Reisman Defends Army Film Service

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Phil Reisman, RKO vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, hitting at the oft-expressed criticism in the U. S. of "old" films being serviced to American troops overseas, said here today that "despite obvious difficulties, Army film distribution compares favorably with the work of commercial distributors at home who are faced with no such problems. The Army is doing a magnificent job in providing films to troops."

Francis Harmon, executive vice-chairman of the War Activities in New York precipitated the controversy many weeks ago when he charged alleged failure on the part of the Army to supply U. S. troops abroad with late films.

Arrested for Showing 'Teen Age' in Omaha

OMAHA, Feb. 10.—The showing of 'Teen Age', 1943 Continental Productions film bearing a Production Code approval seal, at the Arbor Theatre here has brought the arrest of R. D. Goldberg, circuit operator. Also objected to in a warrant charging exhibition of "immoderate moving pictures and advertising", issued by Judge John W. Battin, was "Guilty Parents", 1936 release of Jay Dee Kay Productions, which carries no seal. Goldberg, under bond, appeared in municipal court early this week before Judge Lester Palmer, who ordered the pictures shown to a censorship group.

The films were withdrawn from the Arbor but were returned to the Town Theatre in the metropolitan area where they had previously been run.

E. C. Douglas Named Manager of State

Appointment of Edward C. Douglas as manager of Loew's State here was announced yesterday by Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president of Loew's, Inc. Douglas, who has managed Loew's Kings and Prospect Theatres in recent years, was assistant manager of the Capitol, New York, until 1930. Al Rosen, present manager of the State, will leave on March 1 to enter business on the West Coast.

Meanwhile, Paul Murphy, manager of the Ziegfeld, moves to the Prospect, Flushing. Harry Weiss will serve as temporary manager of the Ziegfeld.

Schwartz Counsel for Legislature Probers

Arthur J. Schwartz of the New York law firm of Schwartz and Frohlich, which has many film clients, has been appointed general counsel of the special committee of six which the New York state legislature has named to conduct a self-investigation of that group.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 10

WILL HAYS, president of the MPPDA, will leave here tomorrow for the East.

•

The Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences will mail ballots tomorrow to 10,000 qualified voters in the 16th annual awards election; they are returnable before midnight, Feb. 25.

•

Robert Goldstein, International Pictures' New York manager, will leave here tomorrow for New York.

•

Robert Gillham, Paramount ad-publicity director, arrived here today from the East.

•

Paul Lazarus will leave for New York tomorrow.

•

M-G-M has signed James Hilton to write an original novel, as yet untitled.

Chaplin Indicted in Joan Barry Action

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 10.—A Federal Grand Jury here today returned four indictments against Charles Chaplin, three charging conspiracy to deprive Joan Barry of her civil rights and the fourth charging violation of the Mann Act in transporting her to New York and back.

Seven others indicted along with Chaplin on from one to three charges of conspiracy to violate Miss Barry's civil rights include Thomas W. Durant, Charles J. Griffin, Police Captain W. W. White, Police Lieut. Claude Marple and Police Matron Jessie B. Reno, all of Beverly Hills.

Morgan Off Today on Coast and Sales Tour

Oscar A. Morgan, general sales manager of Paramount short subjects, will leave today on the first lap of a sales trip for Paramount Shorts and News. After a week at the studios he will spend a month conducting sales meetings in West and Midwest exchanges, accompanied by George Smith, Western division sales manager.

While on the Coast, Morgan will meet with short-subject producers to discuss plans for the 1944-45 program.

Anderson Signed

Maxwell Anderson has been signed by Paul Soskin to write the screenplay for his "Signed With Their Honor." The playwright will start work on the script immediately, going to Hollywood later.

24 Openings for 'Joe'

M-G-M's "A Guy Named Joe" will have 17 simultaneous openings on Feb. 17, followed by five additional engagements starting the following day, one on Feb. 19 and another Feb. 20.

Tours 100,000 Miles, Finds Films First

Chicago, Feb. 10.—Above all else, motion picture entertainment ranks first with overseas soldiers, declared Brigadier General Joseph W. Byron in his first press conference here at the end of a tour of 100,000 miles of all fronts and remote outposts in all sectors except Alaska. Second is candy bars, fruit juice or soft drinks; music is thir

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
Joan Fontaine • Orson Welles
"JANE EYRE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
GALA STAGE SHOW
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
in Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG
and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
"THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS"
ANNA STEN
KENT SMITH

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Greer Garson
Walter Pidgeon
in M-G-M's
'Madame Curie'
In Person
ED SULLIVAN
and his
REVUE

ANNE BAXTER
THOMAS MITCHELL
"THE SULLIVANS"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus a Big Stage Show
ROXY
7th Ave. and 50th St.

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 10 a. m.
Rivoli
B'way & 49th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign, single copies, 10c.



UNIVERSAL

has consistent and traditional audience

VALUES

Meaning . . .

Change of pace . . .
Variety in subject matter

UNIVERSAL'S Pictures are modeled to successful entertainment formulae!

Just look at these—

UNIVERSAL HAS

The picture nominated to be seen twice!

FLESH AND FANTASY



"FLESH AND FANTASY"

starring in the order of their appearance

ROBERT BENCHLEY
BETTY FIELD
ROBERT CUMMINGS
with
EDGAR BARRIER

EDWARD G. ROBINSON
with
THOMAS MITCHELL
C. AUBREY SMITH
ANNA LEE
DAME MAY WHITTY

CHARLES BOYER
BARBARA STANWYCK
with CHARLES WINNINGER

Directed by JULIEN DUVIVIER

Produced by CHARLES BOYER *and* JULIEN DUVIVIER

Screen Play by Ernest Pascal • Samuel Hoffenstein • Ellis St. Joseph
Based on stories by Oscar Wilde • Laslo Vadnay • Ellis St. Joseph

A UNIVERSAL VALUE

The *Best* Deanna Durbin box office picture yet!



Deanna DURBIN · Franchot TONE · Pat O'BRIEN

in

HIS BUTLER'S SISTER

with AKIM TAMIROFF

EVELYN ANKERS · ALAN MOWBRAY · FRANK JENKS
WALTER CATLETT · ELSA JANSSEN

Original Screen Play, Samuel Hoffenstein • Betty Reinhardt

Directed by FRANK BORZAGE

Produced by FELIX JACKSON • Associate Producer FRANK SHAW

A FRANK BORZAGE Production

A UNIVERSAL VALUE

UNIVERSAL HAS

The story that enthralled the world, wild, exciting, exhilarating!

MARIA MONTEZ • JON HALL • TURHAN BEY

in

ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES



Maria the Magnificent!

IN TECHNICOLOR!

with ANDY DEVINE • FORTUNIO BONANOVA
FRANK PUGLIA • RAMSAY AMES
MORONI OLSEN • KURT KATCH

Written for the Screen by Edmund L. Hartmann

Directed by ARTHUR LUBIN • Produced by PAUL MALVERN

A UNIVERSAL VALUE

Lover...killer...schemer...a many-sided character in a many-sided story!



Jean GABIN *in*

THE IMPOSTOR

with

RICHARD WHORF • ALLYN JOSLYN • ELLEN DREW
PETER VAN EYCK • JOHN QUALEN
EDDIE QUILLAN • RALPH MORGAN

Original Screen Play by Julien Duvivier

Dialogue adapted from the French by Stephen Longstreet

Additional Dialogue by Marc Connelly and Lynn Starling

Produced and Directed by
JULIEN DUVIVIER

A UNIVERSAL VALUE

UNIVERSAL HAS

Dramatic chiller built on almost unbearable suspense . . . with something out-of-this-world in story and background!

"PHANTOM LADY"



starring

FRANCHOT TONE • ELLA RAINES
ALAN CURTIS

with

THOMAS GOMEZ • AURORA • ELISHA COOK, Jr.
FAY HELM • ANDREW TOMBES

Screen Play by Bernard C. Schoenfeld • Based on the Novel by William Irish
Directed by ROBERT SIODMAK • Associate Producer, Joan Harrison

A UNIVERSAL VALUE

Dashing . . . Daring . . . Delightful! Starring the modern youngster who sky-rocketed to fame on his joyous personality! . . .



Donald O'CONNOR • *Peggy* RYAN • *Ann* BLYTH

in

"CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK"

with HELEN VINSON • ARTHUR TREACHER
HELEN BRODERICK • PATRIC KNOWLES
J. EDWARD BROMBERG

and introducing

"QUIZ KID" JOEL KUPPERMAN

Screen Play by Eugene Conrad and Leo Townsend
Original Story by Robert Arthur
Directed by CHARLES LAMONT
Associate Producer, Bernard W. Burton

A UNIVERSAL VALUE

"KEEP UP THE ATTACK!
4th WAR LOAN!"

AND UNIVERSAL HAS

WOW!



WALTER WANGER
presents
The Story of Carlson's Makin Island Raiders

GUNG HO!

starring

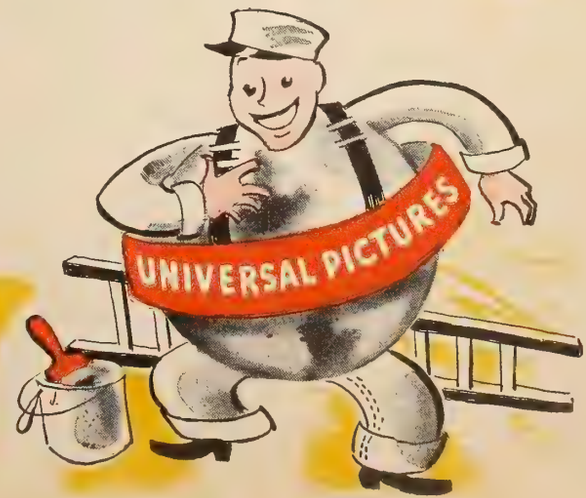
RANDOLPH SCOTT

NOAH BEERY, Jr. • ALAN CURTIS • Peter Coe • David Bruce • Sam Levene • J. Carrol Naish • Richard Lane • Milburn Stone
and GRACE McDONALD

Screen Play by Lucien Hubbard
Based on the factual story "GUNG HO" by Lt. W. S. Le Francois, U.S.M.C.
Additional Dialogue by Joseph Hoffman
Directed by RAY ENRIGHT
Produced by WALTER WANGER

BREAKING HOUSE RECORDS IN ALL OPENING ENGAGEMENTS!

A UNIVERSAL VALUE



Leave it to UNIVERSAL to give you something that no one else has . . . pictures with that freshness . . . that zest for the different . . . that variety of story. . . that UNIVERSAL BOX OFFICE FEELING you get only from UNIVERSAL VALUES!

Theatres Give Eight-Point Decree Draft

(*Continued from page* 1)

the Government first proceed with the prosecution of the New York anti-trust suit against the major companies but that, if it is decided not to bring the action to trial, consideration be given to the independents' eight-point program.

The recommendations are contained in a 31-page brief which bears the indorsements of national Allied, the Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors, the MPTO of Virginia, Allied of Iowa-Nebraska, the PCCITO and the Independent Exhibitors of New England.

The brief claims that Section 10 in the present decree, dealing with arbitration of some runs, is "wholly ineffective." It contends that this section does not distinguish between an "independent" and a "circuit" based on the number of theatres, and is arbitrary and loses sight of the controlling factor, which is buying power. The remedies provided in the decree are too ineffective and inconclusive to warrant the risk and expense of instituting proceedings under this section. The award, the brief says, must be such as to warrant the effort to get the coveted run. A new section 10 is proposed.

Attorney Appointments

It claims that exhibitors face an inequitable situation in submitting their complaints to arbitration since a battery of defendants' lawyers have appeared in opposition to a single lawyer from a complainant. To equalize this situation it is proposed that an attorney be appointed in each arbitration district to be available to the exhibitor filing a complaint. The fees for the services of these lawyers should be paid out of the arbitration budget, it proposes. Such lawyers are to be selected by the American Arbitration Association in each district. By this method, the brief says, the same attorney will represent all plaintiffs and be able to acquire special knowledge.

In the place of regional appeal boards originally sought, the independents propose that a complainant may elect to be heard by a panel of three arbiters instead of one. In this event, he has no right of appeal except on matters of construction or interpretation of the decree. It is pointed out that under this method, there will be less need for appeals and more inducement to exhibitors to start arbitration.

Clearance Proposals

On clearance, the exhibitors make the following proposal: "It is recognized that clearance which is commensurate with the degree of competition existing between theatres involved is essential in distribution and exhibition of motion pictures. Where no competition between theatres is involved or where it is so slight as to have no substantial economic effect there should be no clearance." Clearance, according to the brief, shall begin from the date of the start of the run in the first theatre of the exhibitor having prior run.

Regarding the provision dealing with circut expansion, the brief states, "This provision in the opinion of the conference is wholly emasculated and will have no effect under the exceptions set forth. We recommend very strongly that it be eliminated entirely and also recommend that where the distributor may make application for theatre acquisition and an independent exhibitor is affected the application be made in the district where the theatre or theatres are located rather than in New York."

On the question of how many films should constitute a block, the exhibitors recommend that each block represent a submission of one-quarter of the annual estimated output of the company with an outright cancellation of 20 per cent permitted, based on the 1939 Umpi proposals. The exhibitors recommend that the clause relating to the forcing of features be put back into the decree in the stipulation concerning buying for more than one theatre since they feel that Westerns, foreign pictures and reissues may be forced upon them. They ask for a redefining of "specials" and "roadshows" and features offered singly. To eliminate "blind pricing," they ask that the price be designated when the application is signed.

On the question of enforcement of decree provisions, the exhibitors ask that penalties be applied for violations of forcing features as well as shorts and newsreels. Such penalties according to the exhibitors should call for the cancellation of the contract and an arbitration award equal to the amount of the total film rental of the forced contract but not less than $500 to be paid to the complainant and not to the fund.

Regarding trade showings, the exhibitors are willing to continue the practice but with certain safeguards which are that there be no paying audiences at trade showings and that all pictures in a group be tradeshown before they are offered.

The exhibitors desire that the test period under the new decree should not exceed three years.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 213 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

JAMES W. BLACKWELL, State Theatre, Newton, N. C.

C. E. MORRIS, Teton Theatre, Powell, Wyo.

L. EDWARD FORESTER, Des Moines Theatre, Des Moines, Ia.

R. L. BROWNING, Poncan Theatre, Ponca City, Okla.

BILLY CONNORS, Indiana Theatre, Marion, Ind.

C. E. WALKER, Ogden Theatre, Ogden, Utah.

MRS. E. C. FAIN, Fain Theatre, Wetumpka, Ala.

JERRY DE ROSA, Paradise Theatre, Bronx, N. Y.

P. A. DELAHUNTY, Valencia Theatre, Macon, Mo.

Over $2,500,000 in RKO Bond Premieres

Over $2,500,000 in bonds were sold at 4th War Loan Drive premieres in eight RKO New York area theatres Wednesday night. Keith's Flushing raised $500,000; Dyker, Brooklyn, $410,000; Madison, Brooklyn, $403,200; RKO 81st Street, $366,000; RKO Strand, Far Rockaway, $300,000; RKO Coliseum, $245,700; RKO Capitol, Union City, $181,000, and RKO 86th Street, $150,000.

Stage presentations from New York's metropolitan area theatres will be combined to feature tonight's "Million Dollar War Bond Show" at the Roxy at midnight. Twelve houses are cooperating: Astor, Capitol, Criterion, Loew's State, Globe, Hollywood, Strand, Palace, Paramount, Rialto, Rivoli and Music Hall.

'Seabees' Reception

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Feb. 10.—The local Variety Club will sponsor a press reception-preview of Republic's "The Fighting Seabees" here today. Republic's branch manager J. H. Dillon will be host to Wilby-Kincey circuit executives and the press. "Seabees" opens at the Imperial here Sunday.

Sam Caplin Dies

Sam Caplin, brother of Dennis Caplin of Republic Pictures' advertising staff, died recently at the age of 38. He was in the radio business.

IATSE Seeks Fund For More Benefits

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 10. — Eleven IATSE unions have submitted proposals to the producers demanding the establishment of "a retirement, vacation and health benefit fund" through payment of 5 per cent on gross payrolls by producers. The fund would be administered by the IATSE board fund trustees acting with the assistance of a producers' advisory committee. No provision for employes' contributions to the fund is contained in the proposal.

In addition, two weeks' vacation with pay is sought for employes working 1,600 hours or more annually, one week for those working 800 hours or less, and 12 days' annual sick leave. Individual locals will also demand wage increases approximating 15 per cent in some classifications.

Officials Meet Today

Union officials of the studio basic agreement will meet tomorrow to consider proposals to be advanced when meeting with the producers on Mar. 14 at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark. The basic group does not expect to seek a wage increase, Joseph Tuohy, president of the Studio Drivers Union, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY today. "We will seek changes in working conditions, improvements in grievance procedure, vacations and sick leaves with pay," he said.

The Conference of Studio Unions proposals will include vacations, sick leaves, adjustments in some classifications calling for wage increases, a 10 per cent wage differential for night shift and a minimum six-day work call instead of the present six-hour work call, Herbert Sorrell, president, told the DAILY.

IATSE union heads will leave here Feb. 28 for negotiations scheduled for Pat Casey's office in New York Mar. 6. CSU negotiations will follow on Mar. 10.

'Love', 'North Star' Minneapolis Leaders

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 10.—"No Time for Love" appeared headed for a heavy $15,000 at the State Theatre, while "North Star" promised $10,000 at the Orpheum. Cold weather has set in.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 12:

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
GOPHER—(998) (35c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,600. (Average, $3,500)

"The Gang's All Here" (Fox)
LYRIC — (1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,400. (Average, $5,200)

"Government Girl" (RKO)
CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,750. (Average, $7,000)

"The North Star" (RKO)
ORPHEUM — (2,800) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,000).

"No Time for Love" (Para.)
STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000).

"Adventures of Tartu" (M-G-M)
WORLD — (350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,500. (Average, $2,300)

"In Old Chicago" (20th-Fox) 4 days.

"Harvest Melody" (PRC) 4 days
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with midweek change. Gross: $2,300. (Average, $2,500)

'Passport' Tradeshows

Previously announced as "Passport to Adventure," the new title of the RKO Radio picture will be "Passport to Destiny," but national trade screenings set for Feb. 15 and 16 will be held under the old title because new title footage will not be ready in time to make the change.

WPB Sees Retention Of Present Film Stock Allocations

(*Continued from page* 1)

ly repeated during the past few days, that "no large-scale relaxation over production of civilian goods in general can be considered until the outcome of impending military operations is known."

Officials of the WPB's motion picture section said there were no problems now involved in the film supply situation. They pointed out that no scarce metals are required and no difficulty has been experienced in securing allocation of adequate chemicals, although some are tight. Being a continuous process, film production is capable of quick shifts to meet changing requirements, and there is no cause for uncertainty as to future supply. Retention of present quotas, however, will be insurance against any possible contingency and in line with the general policy of maintaining controls until the European situation has cleared up.

Seek to Avert N.Y. Exchange Strike

(*Continued from page* 1)

tra four hours of employment weekly, to bring the workweek to 44 hours and permit extra compensation. IATSE officials are understood to have taken the position that such a move by the companies would not require War Labor Board approval. A further meeting has been set for today or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, word has been received from Chicago that Local B-45, IATSE, representing some 260 "backroom" employes of the eight major companies there, is on the verge of striking, a fact disclosed by Sam Lamansky, business manager for the local. Local executives there are awaiting advice from IATSE officials in New York before taking action.

'Beautiful' Tops Slow New Haven Week

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 10.—The Bijou showed the best margin over par with "Beautiful but Broke" and "Hitler, Dead or Alive," taking $5,000, over by $1,500. At the College, the second week of "The North Star" and "Headin' for God's Country" took $3,700, over the line by $500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 10:

"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
"Hitler, Dead or Alive" (States Rights)
BIJOU—(1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $5.000. (Average: $3,500).

"The North Star" (RKO)
"Headin' for God's Country" (Rep.)
COLLEGE—(1,565) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $3,200).

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"O, My Darling Clementine" (Rep.)
LOEW'S POLI—(3,005) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,300).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $6,400).

"Desert Song" (WB)
"Murder on the Water Front" (WB)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,200. (Average $6,400).

THAT UNBEATABLE SHOWMANSHIP COMBINATION



is at it again . . . in a bigger way than ever!

GIGANTIC 60-THEATRE, 4-STA
OF THE GREATEST BOX-OFFICE

WALT DISNEY'S full-len Sn Wh

..THE MOST FAR-REACHING AND INTENSIVE PRE-OPENING PRO-MOTION YOU EVER HEARD OF!

—blanketing the entire area of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia—

—backed by the official "Snow White Week" proclamations of the Governors of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana—

—with dominatingly-powerful Station WLW beaming out a saturation coverage many times a day, every day, for weeks in advance—

—with two great contests for animators and the "Voice" of "Snow White" running in every community—

—with personal appearances of the "Voices" of Snow White, Donald Duck, Goofy . . . plus two groups of dwarfs and a Disney animator—

—with newspaper publicity and advertising adding their barrage to such a drum-fire of exploitation as never thundered in the land before!



and t
Seven
in
Multip
Techni





KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE AREA FOR THE BIG BOX-OFFICE NEWS!

Distributed by
RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

PREMIERE FEB. 22 FOR ONE TTRACTIONS OF ALL TIME!..

ure production

ow
te
arfs



THE CROSLEY CORPORATION
CINCINNATI

OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT AND ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
W L W - W L W O - W S A I

December 10, 1943.

Mr. Ned E. Depinet
RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.
RKO Building
New York City

Dear Mr. Depinet:

In a private showing yesterday, my associates and I saw the Walt Disney picture "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Under the stress of war conditions and the tremendous avalanche of propaganda pictures, we think it would be extremely timely to use "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" for a major showing in WLW-land.

WLW plans a more powerful promotion on this picture than the campaigns behind "Hitler's Children" and "Behind the Rising Sun." All possible cooperation to exhibitors will be gladly given by the Nation's Station.

This would include powerful hour, half-hour, quarter-hour and five-minute programs for a period of approximately three weeks before and during the showing.

If the motion picture houses will get behind the promotion planned for the picture, we feel confident "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" will be a tremendous box office success.

Sincerely,

R.E. Dunville

RED:MF



Monogram 25% Over Quota—Johnston; Greenblatt Signed

(*Continued from page* 1)

manager of PRC, as home office special representative, effective immediately.

Greenblatt, prior to his association with PRC, was with Gaumont British Pictures here in the posts of circuit sales manager, district sales manager and general sales manager. Previously he was branch manager of Educational's New York exchange. He entered the industry from Wall Street.

Discussing the company's current season's sales progress yesterday, Johnston declared that "recent holdovers on Monogram pictures are a revelation. Never before has a Monogram picture held five weeks at the Globe, New York, or four weeks at the Garrick, Chicago, the record set by "Where Are Your Children?'; and 'Women in Bondage' has broken house records at such theatres as the Palace, Toledo, where it played three weeks; Loew's Ohio, Cleveland, where it is now in its second week; Interstate's Palace Theatre, Houston, Texas, where it is now in its second week, and with holdovers in Milwaukee, Atlanta and other cities," added Monogram's president.

Flexible Program

"Our program of 26 features and 16 Westerns for next season has been arranged to provide the utmost in flexibility, so that timely exploitation topics can be placed on the production schedule," he said

Johnston will preside at the two-day Warwick sales meeting, which will be attended by the following, besides the three executives mentioned: Harry Berkson, Buffalo; Robert Adler, Albany; Arthur C. Bromberg, Atlanta; Herman Rifkin and Ben Abrams, Boston; Sam Hinson, Charlotte; Nate Schultz, Cleveland; Ed Blumenthal and John Franconi, Dallas; B. Pritchard, Memphis; Henry Glover, New Orleans; Joe Felder and Nate Furst, New York; Sam Rosen, Philadelphia; Harry Brown, Washington; Ben Welansky and Mark Goldman, Pittsburgh, together with the salesmen and bookers of these franchise holders.

Canada to Be Represented

Also on hand will be: Lloyd Lind, assistant to Broidy in the East, and John S. Harrington and J. P. Friedhoff of the New York offices. Representing the Canadian offices will be Oscar Hanson, franchise holder, and Harry Kaufman, general manager.

On the agenda will be discussions of the progress and general position of the company, product to be released for the remainder of the current season, and plans for next season, when the company expects to release several additional high budget productions.

Johnston to Meet Press

Monogram president W. Ray Johnston will meet representatives of the trade and fan press Monday afternoon at a reception in the Warwick Hotel here, on his first trip to New York from the Coast in more than a year.

Rank's U.S. Film Plans Completed

(*Continued from page* 1)

New York. Carr formerly was managing director for U. A. in England.

In a message to American exhibitors, announcing his entering American distribution, Rank said: "I give you my assurance that nothing will be spared to make outstanding pictures worthy of your screens. Associated with me is a splendid team of writers, directors and technicians who have already worked miracles under front-line conditions. With the help of brighter prospects looming ahead, I feel confident in promising you a supply of important British pictures."

Weshner with Kelly-Rank

David (Skip) Weshner and his Weshner Associates, publicists, have been retained by Arthur Kelly for publicity and promotional activities of the local Rank sales organization now in the making. Weshner is a former United Artists advertising and publicity director.

Only 238 Features Delivered by April

(*Continued from page* 1)

Additional films which may swell the product reserve include many scheduled to start rolling shortly.

Columbia has released or set for release 23 features through April, against 42 promised for the season; M-G-M, 24 compared to 39; Monogram, 18 against 19; Paramount, 17 against 44; PRC, 20 compared to 22 scheduled; Republic, 25 against 38; RKO Radio, 21 compared to 31; 20th-Fox, 21 against 37; United Artists, 17 against 25; Universal, 37 compared to 51, and Warners, 15 against 31 promised.

Plan Promotion for Films' 50th Year

(*Continued from page* 1)

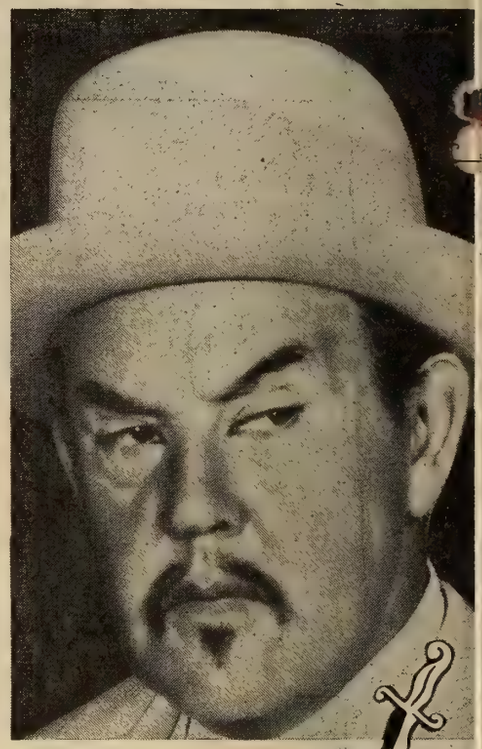
Monday, it was said. A pressbook will be prepared presenting the story of the late Thomas Edison's experiments which resulted in the first showing in 1894, and including much historical and educational material from subsequent years.

Also discussed at yesterday's session was a plan to publicize the industry's furnishing of free films for the Armed Forces. A committee consisting of Albert Deane, Glen Allvine and Paul Lazarus is working on this project.

Heiss, Livingston Win on 'Comrade'

William L. Heiss of the Markay Theatre, Jackson, Ohio, has won the $300 first prize in RKO's "Tender Comrade" promotional contest, president Ned E. Depinet announced here yesterday. Runner-up prize of $200 went to Blanche Livingston of RKO Theatres publicity staff; $100 to Allan H. Armstrong of the Wometco circuit, Miami, and $50 to C. J. Appel, advertising-publicity director of the Odeon circuit, Toronto.

CHARLIE CHAN IS BACK!



"Charlie Chan, super detective, is carrying on in a fashion which should make the late Earl Derr Biggers grin happily from the clouds . . . Not only a thriller, but a highly ingenious yarn."
. . . L. A. TIMES

"New 'Chan' up to Series' standard...Whodunit fans will probably enthusiastically welcome back their old pal."
. . . HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"Gives Monogram a top-notch whodunit release ...genuine entertainment . . . should find a ready market."
. . . DAILY VARIETY

"First rate mystery keeps Charlie Chan Series up to old standard...ranks with the best in the series."
. . . FILM DAILY

Millions of mystery fans are eager for the new adventures of Earl Derr Bigger's famed sleuth! His first for Monogram is a high-tension thriller!

MONOGRAM PICTURES presents

SIDNEY TOLER

in

"CHARLIE CHAN In The Secret Service"

with Mantan MORELAND · Gwen KENYON

Arthur LOFT

Produced by Philip N. Krasne & James S. Burkett
Directed by Phil Rosen
Original Screenplay by George Callahan Suggested by the Earl Derr Biggers character

DO NOT REMOVE

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 31 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1944 TEN CENTS

Abandoning of Pooling Seen As Minor Item

Majors' Proposal Would Have Little Effect

The proposal of the five consent decree companies to abandon theatre pooling arrangements as one condition for meeting Department of Justice approval of a revised decree, will not have any widespread effect on operations of their affiliated circuits, it was indicated by a survey of the situation just concluded. At the present stage of decree discussion, the only pooling arrangements affected would be those existing between the five companies—and there are comparatively few of these. Not affected are those between the companies and unaffiliated circuits. Another problem yet to be thrashed out, it is learned, involves situations where one consent-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Warner Directors Reelected Tomorrow

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 13.—Annual meeting of Warner Bros.' stockholders will be held here Tuesday morning for the re-election of six directors to serve two-year terms.

Following company officers have been re-nominated as directors: Harry M. Warner, president; Jack L. Warner, vice-president; Albert Warner, vice-president and treasurer; Joseph Bernhard, vice-president; Robert W. Perkins, secretary and general counsel, and Waddill Catchings, chairman of the board of Transamerican Broadcasting & Television Corp.

Skouras Abolishes Two Bowles' Posts

Fox West Coast's Northern and Southern California division managerial posts held by the late A. M. Bowles have been discontinued. Charles Skouras, National Theatres-FWC president told *Motion Picture Daily* at the weekend. Bowles died last week in San Francisco.

Actual operations will continue under George Bowser and B. V. Sturdivant, Southern and Northern California district supervisors, respectively.

Capital Sees U. S. Films On Top in the Post-War

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—"American films will continue to predominate the world market," in the opinion of observers here who have been studying Hollywood's post-war potentialities. These observers, who insist upon anonymity, conclude that "the American industry's greatest competion stems from the British industry but the latter could not be resuscitated even in its palmiest days with the artificial protection of the British Quota Act governing the importation of outside product."

"The recent moves to concentrate the British industry should give it increased bargaining power but fundamental economic factors favor a continuance of Hollywood supremacy," it was stated. "Foreign coun-

(*Continued on page 8*)

1,500 New Accounts Added by Monogram

Monogram has added 1,500 new accounts this season, Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager, declared at the company's Eastern sales meeting held here at the weekend at the Warwick Hotel.

Broidy revealed that Monogram had raised from six to eight the number of "A" pictures for 1944-45. Each will cost about $500,000 he said.

W. Ray Johnston, president, whose 30 years, and Broidy's 20 years in the industry are the themes for a Monogram sales drive, presided. Harry Thomas, Eastern sales head, and Ed Morey, New York office executive, spoke on the drive. Broidy concluded the session Sunday with an exposition of the company's expanded advertising budget.

Franchise Holders Hear PRC's Plans

Franchise holders of Producers Releasing, at Friday's opener of a four-day national convention called by Leon Fromkess, vice-president, heard production plans outlined for the coming year and a discussion of organization problems. The meetings are being held at the St. Moritz Hotel, with Leo J. McCarthy, sales manager, presiding.

The production discussion by Fromkess involved production costs, personalities, stories and general outline of what the production department

(*Continued on page 8*)

Gould Placed in Complete Charge of U.A. Foreign Dep't

Walter Gould, foreign manager of United Artists, has been given complete autonomy over the company's foreign sales and distribution, it was learned at the weekend.



Walter Gould

The added authority was granted Gould following the resignation last week of Arthur W. Kelly as United Artists vice-president. Kelly had been the company's supervisor of foreign sales and distribution, but relinquished the latter post several

(*Continued on page 8*)

Max Fellerman Joins Katzman and Dietz

Max Fellerman, former RKO film buyer and booker in the home office, has become associated as a partner with Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz of Banner Productions. Fellerman, who will make his headquarters in the RKO Building here, will be Eastern representative for Banner.

Banner's new production schedule

(*Continued on page 8*)

Hollywood Gave Heavily to Russians

Clothing, medical supplies and other articles valued at $512,851 were given for Russian War Relief last year through the Los Angeles committee, made up largely of film people, it was stated here by RWR officials at the weekend.

From the country as a whole contributions in cash and kind totaled $16,273,392, according to RWR.

An unknown amount of films and film equipment supplies was included in the shipments, and it is understood that much more will be requested during 1944.

Rank to Have Own Company In America

Plans Are Patterned on United Artists' Setup

An American distribution organization patterned after the United Artists setup is in process of formation by J. Arthur Rank of London, according to reports in informed trade circles here.

Progress of the plans for the new Rank company is accepted as conclusive evidence that Rank has abandoned earlier efforts to acquire a controlling interest in an established national distribution company here. Rank's new sales and distribution organization, as announced last week, will be headed by Arthur W. Kelly, former United Artists vice-president and foreign department supervisor.

(*Continued on page 8*)

'Put Drive Over Top', Skouras Urges

Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry's 4th War Loan drive, appealed to exhibitors throughout the nation at the weekend to redouble their efforts in the closing two days of the drive, today and tomorrow, to make it an unparalleled success.

"Up to now," Skouras said, "our results have been gratifying, but we must make our final efforts more than

(*Continued on page 8*)

See Postponement of NY Exchange Strike

Discussions starting late last week between IATSE officials and representatives of the eight major companies pointed toward at least a postponement of the Sunday midnight strike called by Local B-51, IATSE, for last midnight, which would affect some 350 "backroom" film exchange workers in New York.

IATSE officials and company representatives are discussing a new contract which would provide the workers with extra remuneration through overtime, bringing the present 40-hour work week to 44 hours, or more.

Personal Mention

GEORGE BAGNALL, United Artists vice-president and director, left for the Coast Friday after two weeks of home office meetings.

•

CARL SCHAEFER of the Warner Bros.' publicity department in Hollywood under ALEX EVELOVE, has been granted a leave of absence starting next week for a special overseas mission for the War Department.

•

ALBERT S. HOWSON, Warner Bros. scenario editor, will speak on "The Eighth Art" before the Contemporary Circle of Sinai Temple Sisterhood at the Community House, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Wednesday evening.

•

CHARLES HICKEY, manager of Paramount's home office mailing department, left Friday for the Army. He was given a farewell party and gifts by associates and the Paramount Pep Club.

•

HARRY L. MOLLER, general manager of the Diamond-Globe Corp., Berlin, Md., has been elected president of the Association of Berlin Business Men.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, who planned to leave the Coast last Friday for New York after a month's visit at the M-G-M studios, has delayed his departure until today.

•

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's Theatre advertising and publicity director, will return today from a three weeks' vacation in Florida.

•

RUDY BERGER, M-G-M district manager with headquarters in Washington, will arrive in New York Tuesday.

•

HY CARNOW of Warner Bros.' press book department expects to leave for the Navy in about three weeks.

•

FRED MYERS, Universal Eastern division manager, returned here from Cleveland at the weekend.

•

BEN KATZ, Chicago exploiteer for Universal, was a New York visitor last week.

Krimsky, Winkler to Coast for Para. Meet

John Krimsky of Buchanan & Co., advertising agency, and in charge of Paramount Pictures account, and Ray Winkler, art director, left Friday for Hollywood, to discuss with Robert M. Gillham, Paramount advertising-publicity director, forthcoming campaigns for "The Story of Dr. Wassell," "The Hitler Gang," "Going My Way?" and other productions.

John Hertz, Jr., executive vice-president of the Buchanan agency, will leave today for the Coast to join the conference.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

ONE of the finest and fairest treatments of Hollywood, and consequently, of the entire industry—for Hollywood is the industry in the eyes of the public—to appear in the popular prints in too long a time, is Gretta Palmer's "What's the Matter with Hollywood?" in the Feb. 19th issue of *Liberty* magazine.

Miss Palmer's answer to her self-posed question is simply that Hollywood is much better than it believes itself to be. "The producers have been attacked so often," she writes, "that they expect the worst whenever an outsider asks a question. You'd think from their shifty behavior that producers were all joined in a giant conspiracy to break every Federal law. A good many Congressmen do think so."

What Hollywood needs, she concludes, while citing its contributions to the war effort, to American commerce, to social enlightment and to the making of the world's best films, is to consult a good psychoanalyst who can cure its repressions and prepare it to view itself in its proper light — as one of the world's greatest and best administered forces of good.

• •

It is fitting that *Liberty*, the magazine which gives to the public now this appraisal of the industry, was conceived and born of *The Chicago Tribune*, although released from bondage years ago. It was the *Tribune's* publisher, Col. Robert R. McCormick, you will be remembering, who having heard last Summer of a couple of pictures which did not bear his personal slant on international and national subjects, assigned one of his girl reporters to do a thorough "smear" job on Hollywood and, through it, the industry.

At that time, specifically, on Aug. 16, 1943, this column said: "It will not be surprising, therefore, if the industry gets much favorable attention from the press of the country for a spell; attention of a meritorious and constructive nature, such as that being given it by the Chicago *Herald-American*. The net result of the *Tribune's* smear may be more valuable publicity for the industry than it could have inspired had it set out to do so itself."

We believe events since that time, culminating with the *Liberty* article, have shown the accuracy of that prediction.

We regard Miss Palmer's article as valuable reading for many in Washington, for legislative meddlers wherever they may be and for that special breed of literate commentators who disparage motion pictures simply because, in their set, it has been considered "smart."

• •

Industry attorneys, we are told, desired to confer with the trade press recently on the final draft of distributors' proposals for revision of the consent decree but were prevented from doing so by a Department of Justice commitment to observe secrecy on the proposals and to permit all statements for publication to be made by the Department. The attorneys' objective was to give the trade press an opportunity to ask questions and to have them answered in order that complex subjects might be interpreted clearly and anonymous and personalized views of the proposals could be bypassed.

Because of the Department's "gag" on discussions of the decree proposals, what the attorneys feared would happen, did happen. For example, one trade paper featured a story that the distributors proposed that the decree could not be reopened by the Government for a period of 10 years, although the decree companies could petition for its reopening at any time during that period. The facts are that the proposals suggest that, in the event the revised decree is entered, the Government agrees not to sue for affiliated theatre divorcment for the term of the decree, which is exactly what was proposed in the initial decree. The Government could, under the distributors' proposals, reopen the decree on any other subject at any time.

Another account (emanating from Washington) represented the distributors as being agreed upon the liquidation of existing film franchises. There is no agreement of that kind in the distributors' draft.

As was indicated in this space last week, the imposition of a "gag" by the Department of Justice on decree matters could serve but one purpose. It permitted the planters to get in their licks while exhibitors across the country were being asked to make up their minds on what they thought of the distributors' proposals. It would appear now that most of the planters were in Washington.

Coming Events

Feb. 14—AMPA luncheon for Louella Parsons, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York.
Feb. 14.—Allied of New Jersey meeting, Hotel Stacy-Trent, Trenton, N. J.
Feb. 14.—Anniversary dinner for Arthur Cole, Paramount office manager in Kansas City, Hotel Muehlenbach.
Feb. 15.—Warner stockholders' annual meeting, Wilmington, Del.
Feb. 24—Maurice Bergman to address AMPA meeting, Hotel Edison, New York.
March 11—Academy awards, Chinese Theatre, Hollywood.
March 13—Rally for Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People of Europe, Madison Square Garden, New York.
March 14—Loew's annual stockholder's meeting, New York.
March 23-29—Red Cross Drive Week.

Jersey Allied Meets Legislators Today

Because a new state administration has taken office, officers of Allied of New Jersey are emphasizing to members the urgency of attending the organization's annual legislative luncheon meeting today. Gov. Walter Edge and other high-ranking officials will address the gathering at the Stacy Trenton Hotel in Trenton.

Thornton Kelly, Allied executive, stated at the weekend that officers of the association are prepared for any industry questions the legislators may raise. "For twenty years," he said, "we have kept adverse legislation out of New Jersey, and these meetings have played an important part in that connection."

Scully Will Hear Owners' 'Problems'

The New York Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors' trade practice committee will meet here tomorrow with William A. Scully, Universal vice-president and general sales manager, to present and discuss "problems" relating to some of Universal sales policies, in addition to rentals, re-issues and the selling of shorts.

The exhibitors' committee has already met with W. F. Rodgers at M-G-M; Ben Kalmenson, Warners; Robert Mochrie, RKO; Tom Connors, 20th-Fox, and Neil Agnew, Paramount, with whom it discussed similar matters relating to the respective companies.

'Moon' Drive Record

The "Ray E. Moon Sales Drive" conducted by the 20th-Fox New York exchange, under direction of assistant manager Joseph St. Clair, "has resulted in the greatest single week's business ever recorded in the history of the exchange," according to Andrew W. Smith, Jr. Eastern sales manager. It gives Smith's Eastern division the lead in 20th-Fox's national sales drive.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign, single copies, 10c.

3,222 of 20th-Fox's Workers in Service

Twentieth Century-Fox and subsidiaries, including National Theatres, have 3,222 in the armed services, 30 per cent of whom are known to be overseas at battlefronts and bases.

National Theatres leads the manpower contributions to the various services with a total of 1,300; the studio follows with 545 and the home office with approximately 191. Every 20th-Fox exchange throughout America and Canada is represented.

100 in Italy

Approximately 100 are fighting the Nazis right now in Italy. Ten participated in the battle of Tarawa, including Lyle Veldman, formerly of the Detroit exchange, who was wounded and is now recovering in a hospital in San Francisco. Ernest Reeves, formerly of the Dallas exchange, is another veteran of the Tarawa invasion. Twenty-eight distinguished themselves under fire. Only nine of the hundreds who have seen action were wounded, with one death reported. Eleven are prisoners of war, nine in the Pacific and two in Europe. Ensign Stephen L. Freeland, formerly of the home office publicity department, was awarded the Silver Star for helping to lead ashore the first wave of assault troops at Sicily, during the first Italian invasion.

Twenty 20th-Fox feminine employees are in uniform, 12 with the Women's Army Corps, three in the WAVES, one is a SPAR, one a Marine, and one a WREN, the Canadian equivalent of the WAC.

Weshner May Handle Free-Film Publicity

David E. (Skip) Weshner, head of Weshner Associates here, may be asked by the industry's Public Relations Committee to handle institutional publicity on the furnishing of free films for the Armed Forces abroad.

Weshner, in conjunction with Francis Harmon, War Activities Committee vice-president, has submitted an over-all plan of what he thinks ought to be done and will undertake the job only if the plan is accepted.

The movement to publicize the gift films is designed to counteract criticisms by actors returning from USO tours that aged pictures were being shown at the camps.

Goldwater Heads '44 Jewish Appeal Drive

Monroe Goldwater, New York attorney and a director of Keith-Albee-Orpheum Corp., has been named head of the 1944 'War Emergency Campaign' of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

Goldwater, who is a partner in the firm of Goldwater & Flynn, will head a drive which is a part of a $32,000,000 national campaign for the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine.

Durwood-Grant Nuptials

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 13.—Marjorie Beth Durwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Durwood, this city, was married Friday to Lt. Bayard Martin Grant of the Army Signal Corps. Durwood is head of Durwood-Dubinsky Bros. Theatres.

Critics' Quotes . . .

"JANE EYRE" (20th Century-Fox)

HOWARD BARNES—*N. Y. Herald-Tribune* . . . Has a brooding intensity . . . sustained artfully . . . Is interesting, sometimes chilling and even moving. It should be a highly successful entertainment.

BOSLEY CROWTHER—*N. Y. Times* . . . Grimly fascinating in its own right, for it does have continuous vitality as a romantic horror tale . . . No depths of consuming passion are plumbed. No haunting pathos pervades it. . . .

ALTON COOK—*N. Y. World-Telegram* . . . A horror drama—and an excellent one . . . A number of vivid performances . . . The makers of the picture . . . have done their work well—if unorthodoxly.

ARTHUR WINSTEN—*N. Y. Post* . . . An experience difficult to share or understand but spectacular to watch . . . Cannot be regarded as possessing . . . elements of great popularity or . . . intrinsic quality . . . A show-piece . . . maintaining interest constantly.

KATE CAMERON—*N. Y. Daily News* . . . A fine pictorial production, with Joan Fontaine contributing an enchanting performance . . . Captured the strange and suspenseful mood of the book . . . One may thrill to the melodramatic happenings . . .

LEE MORTIMER—*N. Y. Daily Mirror* . . . Has many tense moments . . . Entertaining as 'Jane Eyre' is, it is not as great a picture as its forerunner ('Rebecca') . . .

ROSE PELSWICK—*N. Y. Journal-American* . . . Fortunate in its casting of Joan Fontaine in the title role . . . Is an expert picturization . . . absorbing entertainment.

JOHN T. McMANUS—*N. Y. PM* . . . Welles contributes a great deal . . . to rendering a visual impression of a period and people that probably never existed . . . Seems like a very earnest period piece in a foreign language . . . Is a 'freshman English' museum piece treated to a high-class Hollywood shellacking.

$1,380,000 to Theatre Wing from 'Canteen'

The American Theatre Wing War Service, Inc., parent organization of the New York Stage Door Canteen, has realized $1,380,000 from the Sol Lesser film, "Stage Door Canteen," it was announced at the weekend. Of this amount 32½ per cent, or $448,500 to date, is going to other organizations that aided the picture.

Hollywood Canteen will get 20 per cent, the Motion Picture Relief Fund, 10 per cent, and the Naval Aid Auxiliary, 2½ per cent. Lesser contracted with the Wing to produce "Canteen," which was released last June 24 through United Artists and is still playing.

Brown Among Guests At Parsons Lunch

Joe E. Brown, recently returned from a USO Campshows tour of overseas fighting areas, will be a guest at the Ampa luncheon being given to Louella Parsons today at the Waldorf-Astoria, Vincent Trotta, president, announced at the weekend.

Other guests will be Ned E. Depinet, S. Barret McCormick, Jack Cohn, Frank Rosenberg, Leonard Goldenson, John J. O'Connor, Maurice Bergman, Spyros Skouras, Hal Horne, Gradwell Sears, Paul Lazarus, Jr., Major Albert Warner, Mort Blumenstock, W. Ray Johnston, Si Seadler, Michele Morgan and Joe Connolly. James J. Walker will be toastmaster.

Cinema Club Installs

CINCINNATI, Feb. 13.—The Cinema Club of Cincinnati, comprising film and accessory salesmen, will hold its annual installation dinner here Monday night at the Variety Club. Officers are Ross Williams, president; Robert Burns, first vice president; Marc Cummings, second vice president; Peter Nilbad, secretary-treasurer.

All But Two 'Bests' Are from Hollywood

TORONTO, Feb. 13.—The Canadian Department of National Defense has named 14 films as the "Best of 1943" and announced that the selected pictures will be shown to Canadian troops in all war theatres. All but two are Hollywood made.

Included are: "Pride of the Yankees," RKO; "Random Harvest," M-G-M; "In Which We Serve," British made-United Artists; "Shadow of a Doubt," Universal; "Yankee Doodle Dandy," Warners; "Forever and a Day," RKO; "The More the Merrier," Columbia; "Stage Door Canteen," Sol Lesser-United Artists; "Corvette K-225," Universal; "Holy Matrimony," 20th-Fox; "Desert Victory," 20th-Fox; "Mission to Moscow," Warners; "City that Stopped Hitler—Heroic Stalingrad," Artkino-Paramount and "The Human Comedy," M-G-M.

Loew-Lyons-Morros To Film 'Of Thee'

David L. Loew and Arthur Lyons, co-partners of Producers Artist Corp., and Boris Morros, who have formed the "Of Thee I Sing of California, Inc.," have concluded a deal with the authors of the musical show of the same name, to film the stage production, starting in Spring, it was learned here over the weekend.

Jack Benny and Fred Allen, it is understood, will co-star.

New Guild Chaplain

Father Gustave de Leon has been named Chaplain of the Catholic Actors Guild here, succeeding the late Father John F. White. Father de Leon, who assumed his new duties this week, is a native New Yorker, ordained in May, 1921. He has been assistant pastor of St. Gregory's Church here.

Short Subject Reviews

"Popular Science"

(*Paramount*)

Interesting developments in science, on the home front and in the war, are presented in a pleasing manner in this Popular Science release. Among the new and novel ideas are leg make-up applied with a stick; a heat resistant pad which is used to freshen up garments just taken out of a week-end bag; a lunch box that makes a neat looking handbag, and, finally, the work of the Troop Transport Command, which evacuates the wounded with the use of gliders. This is an interesting, timely and educational release, well-directed. Running time, 20 mins.

"Danger Area"

(*M-G-M*)

"Danger Area," a British Ministry of Information film, is a good product for any theatre. Though it suffers some from a lack of proper production, the direction is good and the acting is superior. It is the story of the execution of a rush munitions order, from the time a requisition is issued to completion of the order. There is suspense and excitement as explosives are packed and treated. The entire film effects a feeling of admiration for the people who make munitions at the daily risk of their lives. Running time, 21 mins.

"What's Cookin', Doc?"

(*Warner Bros.*)

Bugs Bunny is back again, this time munching a carrot at an Academy Awards dinner while waiting for his Oscar—and he's still waiting! When the award goes to someone else, the obstreperous rabbit puts on an impromptu show of his great acting talent to prove that a mistake had been made. The cartoon is up to the regular "Bugs" standard—a good cartoon comedy. Running time, 7 mins.

"Baa, Baa Black Sheep"

(*Warner Bros.*)

Presenting a brief over-all view of the sheep-raising industry "Baa, Baa Black Sheep" is an interesting subject, valuable both as education and entertainment. Filmed in Technicolor the picture holds much for everyone. Narration by Knox Manning is distinctive and Andrew DeLaVarre's direction is excellent. Running time, 10 mins.

"No News Is Good News"

(*M-G-M*)

Robert Benchley offers his views on inflation, production and other current topics, in a manner confusing to everyone. It's amusing at first but gets a bit monotonous toward the end. Running time, 9 mins.

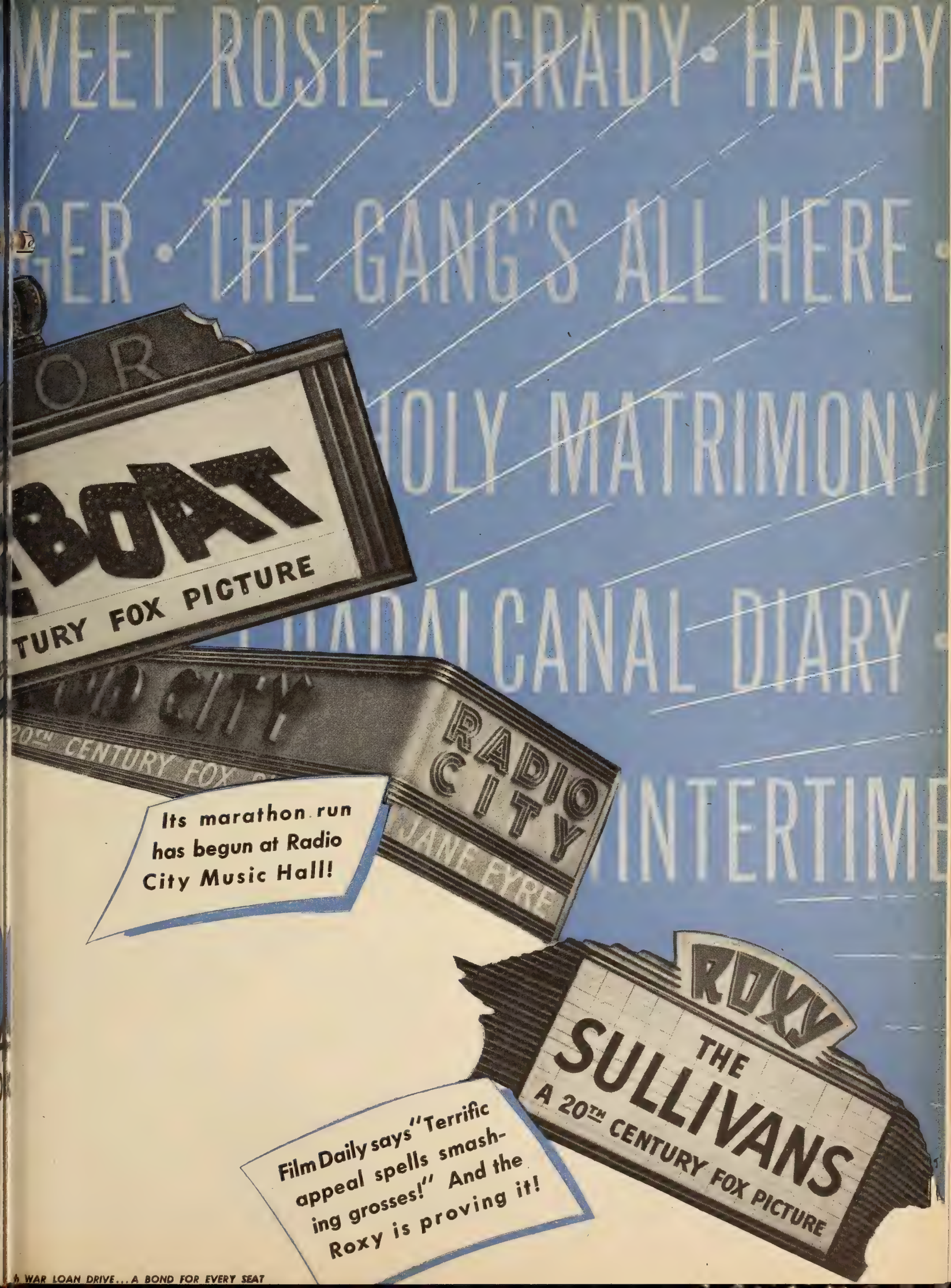
Servicewomen at Para.

More than 500 service women yesterday attended a preview of costumes worn in Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" at the Women's Military Services Club here. A preview of the costumes will also be held in Boston today with a repeat performance at the Paramount Theatre there tonight. Modeling the gowns were Mary Philips and Phyllis Brooks, featured in "Lady in the Dark," and several Powers models.



all from 20

CENTURY-FO



WAR LOAN DRIVE... A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT

'Lifeboat' Dual Is $8,413 Over Par in L. A.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13.—"Lifeboat," coupled with "The Ghost That Walks Alone," got about $58,000 in FWC's Chinese-Loew's State-Uptown threesome, which averages $49,587, despite shortening of the Chinese week by one day in the interests of a war bond premiere. The two Paramount houses, with the Hollywood shortening its week for the premiere of "Lady in the Dark," were on their way to a $35,000 total, which compares to a $32,422 average. Spring weather prevailed at the weekend.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 9:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $10,080. (Average: $11,880).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"The Ghost That Walks Alone" (Col.)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,692).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $10,590).
"Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
"The Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days. 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,865).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.) 3rd week
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $19,544).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"The Ghost That Walks Alone" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $33,000. (Average: $23,577).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $14,354).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.) 3rd week
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
PANTAGES—(2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $16,846).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10.500. (Average: $11,115).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $24.500. (Average: $21,307).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-5c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9.873).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $17,820. (Average: $27,967).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"The Ghost That Walks Alone" (Col.)
UPTOWN—(1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $11.000. (Average: $10,318).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS. DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. 2nd week. Gross: $17.415). (Average: $18.480).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS. HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15.985. (Average: $16,362).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS. WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. 2nd week. Gross: $13.257. (Average: $17,162).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"The Ghost That Walks Alone" (Col.)
FOX WILSHIRE—(2,300) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,750).

Carroll in Baltimore

Deane Carroll will return to her native Baltimore on Feb. 24 for a week of personal appearances at the Hippodrome Theatre where Mayor McKeldin will head a welcoming committee on the opening night.

Review

"Chip Off the Old Block"

(Universal)

UNIVERSAL'S "Chip Off the Old Block" is in the same top entertainment groove as its predecessor, "Top Man," featuring Donald O'Connor and Peggy Ryan. It is a neatly-paced appealing comedy with music, with O'Connor's engaging antics abetted by Miss Ryan and a new heart-throb, Ann Blyth, dominating the action in acting, singing and dancing departments. With an unusually good "marquee" supporting cast that includes Helen Vinson, Helen Broderick, Arthur Treacher, Patrick Knowles, Ernest Truex, J. Edward Bromberg, Minna Gombell and Samuel S. Hinds to attract the customers, the film should gain additional legions of fans for O'Connor and register substantially at the box office. It also marks the screen debut of Joel (Quiz Kid) Kupperman.

O'Connor is the high-spirited, mischievous student at a naval prep school, who, in burlesquing the faculty in the annual school show, which he produces, draws a suspension and is directed home to his father, a Naval officer. On the way home he meets Miss Blyth and the fun begins, for she is the daughter of a famous theatrical family and her mother and grandmother were jilted by O'Connor's father and grandfather. An adolescent romance between O'Connor and Miss Blyth has its ups and downs, with Miss Ryan sometimes playing a good-natured second fiddle.

Everything works out well in the end with Miss Blyth following in the theatrical footsteps of her illustrious mother and grandmother, Miss Ryan getting a break in the same show, and O'Connor being restored to his studies.

The screen play by Eugene Conrad and Leo Townsend from an original story by Robert Arthur is adequate. In his capacity as associate producer, Bernard W. Burton has provided an outstanding production for this type of film. Charles Lamont's direction yields some swell performances. Of the eight musical numbers, "Is It Good, or Is It Bad?" by Charles Tobias, and "It's Mighty Nice to Have Met You," by Grace Shannon and Bill Crago, are the most outstanding. The novelty production number, "The Captain's Kids," by Inez James and Sidney Miller and featuring O'Connor and Miss Ryan is worthy of special mention. Bernard B. Brown handled the photography.

Running time, 83 mins. "G."* Release date, Feb. 25.

MILT LIVINGSTON

*"G" denotes general classification.

Kansas City Gives 'Whistling' $19,000

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 13.—"Whistling in Brooklyn" and "The Adventures of Tartu" at the Midland are leading first runs, with approximately $19,000. "No Time for Love" is headed for a record-breaking $18,000 at the Newman in its first week and will hold over. Weather has been Spring-like.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 9-10:

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,500).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
"The Adventures of Tartu" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $14,000).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
"Find the Blackmailer" (WB)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $10.000).
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,400).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $5,600).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $1,500. (Average: $1,450).

$1,422,076 Tax Revenue

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13.—Estimated in advance at $1,400,000, this city's 1943 amusement tax collection was $1,422,076, an 11.7 per cent increase over 1942's $1,273,140.

Smith and Owen In Field for Paramount

George A. Smith, Paramount Western division sales manager, and Hugh Owen, Eastern division sales manager, are now in the field conducting meetings with branch managers and salesmen.

Smith, in Los Angeles now, will visit San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Salt Lake City and Denver, returning to New York about March 9. Accompanying him is Hugh Brely, Denver district manager and Del Goodman, Los Angeles district manager. Owen will hold branch meetings in Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis and Cincinnati, returning here Feb. 21. M. R. Clark, acting district manager, is accompanying him.

Pickwick Hearing Set for March 7

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 13.—Federal Judge Carroll Hicks here on Friday refused the petition of the major distributor defendants for an adjournment until May of the $5,452,575 Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, anti-trust action and instead set a hearing for March 7.

The suit, filed in 1941 in Federal Court here, seeks triple damages for allaged conspiracy to ruin the business of the Pickwick by monopolizing product and restraining interstate commerce.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Feb. 13

ROBERT WATSON, New York musical comedy star, who recently completed the role of Hitler in Paramount's "The Hitler Gang," directed by John Farrow, will shrug off his characterizational mantle of egomania to return to a musical comedy role in "Practically Yours." He will be teamed with Betty Rhodes and Hillary Brooke in a musical comedy show within the show.

•

Delmar Daves, whose first directorial assignment, "Destination Tokyo," has been playing to packed houses, has been handed the direction on "The Very Thought of You," Jerry Wald production at Warners starring Ida Lupino. . . . Supervising producer Armand Schaefer has assigned Rudy Abel as associate producer on Republic's "The Girl Who Dared," based on Medora Field's novel, "Blood on Her Shoe."

•

Edward Lilley has Warren Wilson's production, "Allergic to Love," with Martha O'Driscoll and Noah Beery, before the cameras at Universal. . . . Zoltan Korda has obtained assignment of Rudy Mate to photograph "Counter-Attack," the first of two which Korda will produce at Columbia. Mate was cameraman on "Sahara," which Korda directed and for which the cinematographer has been nominated for a possible Academy award.

•

Producer-director Tim Whelan, who brought Frank Sinatra to the screen in "Higher and Higher" and has the swoon-crooner starred in a new, untitled musical at RKO, will produce his own play, "Dr. Pilgrim's Progress," in New York this Fall. . . . Sam Wood has started direction of Nunnally Johnson's "Casanova Brown" for International Pictures.

•

Producer Felix Jackson has signed Akim Tamiroff, who played one of Deanna Durbin's butler admirers in "His Butler's Sister," for a second comedy role with Miss Durbin in "Caroline." . . . 20th Century-Fox has cast Thomas Mitchell in "Keys of the Kingdom," recently put before the cameras, and Anthony Quinn in Damon Runyon's "Irish Eyes Are Smiling."

•

Scott R. Dunlap's 1944-45 schedule at Monogram calls for "Wonderland," starring Belita; "Sun Bonnet Sue," "North of Nome," and "Under Northern Lights." He still has "The Girl Next Door," and "Dollar Chasers" to make for the 1943-44 program. . . . Associate producer Will Cowan has assigned Reginald LeBorg to direct "Jungle Woman," starring Acquanetta, at Universal. . . . Will Jason, shorts producer at M-G-M for the past five years, will direct a feature, "Calling All Stars," under Irving Briskin's supervision at Columbia.

Fishman, Foxman Split

PHILADELPHIA, Fb. 13.—Splitting the partnership under which they operated two houses here, Bill Fishman will henceforth run the Vogue Theatre and Lou Foxman, the Upsal.

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IN THE CIVILIAN THEATRE: "Of all times, this is one in which projectionists must study their craft. Every projectionist who does not own a copy of an up-to-date textbook on projection should promptly correct this deficiency."—LESTER B. ISAAC, Director of Visual and Sound Projection, Loew's, Inc.

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¶ Thus, had there never been a need for a textbook and operating guide on projection and sound, this war would have created it.

¶ Most materials have gone to war. Less and less remains for the replacement of theatre equipment. Projection and sound equipment must be operated skillfully, repaired promptly, if it is to continue in effective service. This calls for maximum practical knowledge among all members of the craft, the older projectionists as well as the newcomers.

¶ Know-how equal to the demands of these times, is available to anyone exhibiting motion pictures, in commercial theatres or at Army camp and on Naval ship, who has Richardson's Bluebook available for study, handy for reference. It is both textbook and manual—comprehensive in treatment of both theory and practice, of sound as well as of projection.

¶ In the Seventh Edition, this famous standard textbook on motion picture projection and sound reproduction brings to all persons concerned with the screening of 35-mm. film, up-to-the-minute guidance. The Seventh Edition is new in its method of presenting the subject, new in organization of material, new in much of the operating data. **Additionally, the Seventh Edition contains four chapters on Theatre Television, prepared for the practical instruction of motion picture projectionists.** The chapters on sound now include one devoted to control-track and stereophonic reproduction. And supplementing the regular text are 20 charts for handy reference in locating and correcting sound system defects. Each chapter is preceded by a list of study questions with cross-reference to the text so that the answers may be readily found. The text is thoroughly indexed for easy access to all instructions.

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Pooling Cessation Seen as Minor Item

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing company has leased theatres of another consenting company.

Objection to pooling arrangements comes from the Department of Justice on the grounds that the interlocking agreements violate the Sherman anti-trust act. Pooling arrangements have provided flexibility in booking product into first-run houses with little or no objection raised by local exhibitors.

Among pooling arrangements between theatre affiliates of the five majors which would be abandoned are the following:

RKO Theatres' arrangement with Paramount's affiliate in Rochester covering the former's Palace and the latter's Century, Regent and Capitol, An agreement between RKO and Warners in Cleveland covers the former's Palace and Allen and the latter's Hippodrome and Lake. A St. Paul tie-up between RKO and Paramount covers the former's Orpheum and the latter's Paramount, Tower, Riviera and Strand. The Orpheum in Denver is owned jontly by Loew's and RKO.

Warner-Loew's Pool

Warner Bros. has a pooling arrangement with Loew's in Pittsburgh covering Warners' Stanley and Loew's Penn. Besides the agreements mentioned above with RKO, Warners leases the Paramount in Philadelphia, and has a pooling arrangement with Paramount in Marion, Ind. Twentieth Century-Fox's theatre affiliates lease the San Francisco St. Francis and State from Paramount with Paramount retaining a participating interest in both houses.

Circuit heads here agree that a further definite explanation of what types of pooling arrangements are to be abandoned by the five parent companies is needed. Typical of some of the involved problems is the pooling arrangement between Paramount, Warners and Fabian covering their three respective Brooklyn first-run houses.

Gould Heads U.A. Foreign Department

(*Continued from page* 1)

weeks earlier while in London. Kelly's appointment as head of American distribution for J. Arthur Rank was announced by the latter in London last Thursday.

Gould served in United Artists foreign offices in Latin America up to 1932, when he was made a home office foreign department executive. In 1938 he was named assistant to Kelly, then in charge of the U. A. foreign department, and in 1940 he was appointed foreign manager. Thomas P. Mulrooney continues as foreign sales manager for the company.

Choose Newspaper Guild

The New York Newspaper Guild was elected collective bargaining agent for employes of Quigley Publishing Co. in New York by a vote of 19 to 16 at an election held on Friday.

The Guild also was elected bargaining agent for employes of *Film Daily* by a vote of 9 to 5 in an election held last Thursday.

Capital Sees U. S. Films On Top in the Post-War

(*Continued from page* 1)

tries are not in a position to force the entire American industry into an international cartel, although individual companies may be tempted to enter what amounts to such agreements from time to time," the spokesman added.

"Two major factors will influence the American motion picture industry when the war ends: The world market will again be opened to the American companies. There will not only be a demand for U. S. product from the European countries now occupied by the enemy, but it is also probable that American films will be able to enter those countries, such as Italy, Germany and Russia, which for years have practiced a systematic policy of exclusion," it was stated, with this additional observation: "When the world market reopens, the American industry may play a major role in spreading the ideals of democratic living. This possibility is not only an opportunity but also a responsibility."

MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported recently, however, that Harold Hopper, chief of the motion picture section of the War Production Board, sees the American industry faced with a stiff problem in recapturing free access to world markets after the war unless film people of this country put up a united front in seeking representations at the Allied peace table. The writing of the treaty, he feels, can be made to provide a means for removing trade restriction and embargoes.

Franchise Holders Hear PRC's Plans

(*Continued from page* 1)

proposes. He also cited what is to be expected of franchise holders, all of which, he said, must be in keeping with the pace of advancement planned by PRC.

Fromkess stated that the company aims to produce films with an appeal to larger houses, unavailable heretofore to PRC, thus enabling the company to gain greater grosses. The slogan for the coming year is "Accent on Entertainment," he said.

Rank to Form His Own Company Here

(*Continued from page* 1)

Kelly's executive sales staff is expected to be augmented in the near future.

Rank's new American organization will negotiate deals to distribute the product of selected Hollywood independent producers, giving it an overall semblance of the United Artists' operating plan. The Hollywood product will augment a regular flow of the more important British films sponsored by Rank, the general intention being to place the new company in the position of being able to offer American exhibitors a balanced program of both Hollywood and the better British product, it is said.

Max Fellerman Joins Katzman and Dietz

(*Continued from page* 1)

embraces several features with the East Side Kids and a series starring Bela Lugosi, John Carradine and George Zucco. Fellerman also will produce comedy features with Billy Gilbert, Shemp Howard and Maxie Rosenbloom. All will be released by Monogram.

Kate Smith Bond Sale

Kate Smith sold $108,616,200 worth of war bonds on her 18½-hour appeal on the CBS network recently, with 16 of the 133 web stations tallying more than $1,000,000 each. KNX in Los Angeles had a $47,938,650 sale.

Holds Depinet Drive Meeting in New York

RKO-Radio's "1944 Ned Depinet Drive" was given its Metropolitan New York send-off at the weekend when drive captain Charles Boasberg held his final branch conference at the New York exchange after completing a 39-day tour of the U. S. and Canada. The drive will end May 18.

Attending the New York meeting were: Robert Wolff, Phil Hodes, John J. Dacey, Lou Kutinsky, Harry Zeitels, E. T. Carroll, Charles Penzer, Herman Silverman, Freda Leurie, Jean Slade, Dorothy Post, Jack Finklestein, William Hartman, Jack de Waal, and a home office delegation including Walter Branson, Harry Michalson, A. A. Schubart, Herbert Wappaus, Mike Poller, Frank Drumm, Rutgers Neilson, Jack Level and Arthur Brilant.

'Put Drive Over Top', Skouras Urges

(*Continued from page* 1)

that. We must not be satisfied with just achieving our goal, but we must go well over the top. Our industry thus far has done a fine job. We have worked as a team in the 4th War Loan, and now in the final days the score will be fully written in what our solid efforts will accomplish.

"With the news coming to us from Italy, this is no time to relax. We should extend our efforts to the utmost in order to achieve the fullest results possible in the drive. This opportunity to achieve the greatest job the industry has ever done may never come our way again," Skouras said.

Theatre Suit Against ASCAP Is Dismissed

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13.—Federal Court here has dismissed a $300,000 suit against the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, brought by Largo Theatres, Inc., representing West Coast operators.

The plaintiff petitioned for dismissal after ASCAP had sought an order to amend the complaint requiring Largo to furnish a bill of particulars. The suit was filed in 1941.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 13

STUDIO bond purchases increased over the weekend with sales amounting to $250,000 according to War Finance Committee chairman Henry Ginsberg. Claudette Colbert bought $100,000 worth; Chaplin Studios, $52,125, and Bob Hope and the Screen Actors Guild, $50,000 each.

•

Independent studios have purchased $1,189,339 of 4th War Loan bonds to date, with allied industries buying $428,835 worth. Volunteer bond salesmen numbering 500 will wind up the industry drive here Tuesday.

•

Columbia has added "Tomorrow You Die" to its production schedule.

•

RKO has bought George M. Cohan's "Pidgeons and People".

Golden Cites U. S. Aid for Industry

The facilities of the films section of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce for the gathering and disseminating of trade information arising from legislation abroad and trends in foreign public tastes are available to the industry, Nathan D. Golden, chief of the section, told foreign publicity managers and others at a meeting at MPPDA offices in New York at the weekend. Golden emphasized that this information would become increasingly important to the American industry as foreign markets reopen.

Carl E. Milliken, manager of the international department of the MPPDA, introduced Golden with Albert Deane of Paramount presiding. Others present were Rosa Lewis, Paul Ackerman and Mary Butler, Paramount; Leslie F. Whelan and Self DeAlbreich, 20th Century-Fox; Gerald Keyser, Warners; Samuel Cohen and Leonard Daly, Paramount; Michael Hoffay, RKO; David O'Malley and Clarence J. Schneider, Columbia, and Harold L. Smith and Fayette W. Allport, MPPDA.

Two Oldtimers Pass

TORONTO, Feb. 13.—Two veteran Toronto projectionists died suddenly here last night. They were Thomas Kenny, 58, charter member of Toronto operators Local 173, and chief operator of the Midtown for 30 years, and Albert Holloway, 52 of the Arcadian Theatre. Both are survived by sons who are in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

'Lady' Trade-Showings

Paramount will trade show "Lady in the Dark" in 29 exchange centers on Monday, Feb. 28, according to Neil Agnew, general sales manager. In Washington, D. C., the showing will be in the U. S. Department of Interior auditorium with an invitation audience. The picture was trade shown in New York and Los Angeles on Feb. 3.

Bonds Delay Groton Case

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 13.—Respondents in the Groton Theatre clearance case, which involves New London first run houses, have asked that the hearing be postponed to March due to current pressure of 4th War Loan activities.

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VOL. 55. NO. 32 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1944 TEN CENTS

Trial Starts On Percentage Reports Suit

E. M. Loew Aide Says Records Destroyed

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—Statements that the theatre daily records and cash books of E. M. Loew theatres for the years prior to 1939 had been destroyed some time prior to July 14, 1943, on instructions from Loew, were put into the record here today in the trial of suits by eight major companies charging the independent circuit operator with falsifying records of percentage engagements.

The actions have been consolidated for convenience in a single trial which started today. The distributors charge E. M. Loew with having conspired with his various theatre companies to falsify reports to distributors on the gross receipts of their pictures which played his houses on percentage terms over a period of years. A defense motion for dismissal of the case on juris-

(Continued on page 6)

Para. Eyes Postwar British Production

Paramount is planning to set up its own production organization in England after the war on a scale which will permit it to turn out product there comparable with the better Hollywood pictures, David Rose, Paramount managing director for Great Britain, indicated just prior to his departure from New York for London over the weekend.

Rose said the continuing discussions concerning the company's postwar plans look to the realization of that and several other objectives in operations abroad. Paramount's postwar plans have not yet reached their final phases, he said, but may in the near future.

Robbins Accepts N.Y. Red Cross Drive Post

Herman Robbins, president of National Screen Service, yesterday accepted the chairmanship of the 1944 Greater New York Red Cross War Fund campaign.

Joseph Bernhard, head of Warner Bros. Theatres, is the national industry chairman for the drive, which will run next month.

Southeastern T. O. Asks Tom Clark for Six Decree Changes

Revisions of six consent decree provisions, including a recommendation for individual sales of pictures but without limitation upon the number which can be tradeshown and offered at any time, are proposed in a brief prepared by the Southeastern Theatre Owners Association, which has been forwarded to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark and was made public here yesterday.

The SETOA, of which Nat Williams of Thomasville, Ga., is president, is comprised of theatre owners of Alabama, Georgia and Florida, and includes among its members theatres operated by R. B. Wilby of Atlanta, an outspoken critic of the original consent decree. Wilby has advised

(Continued on page 6)

Virginia Owners Hold for a Decree

The MPTO of Virginia holds that the Government should seek first to secure an amended consent decree before moving to bring the consent decree signatories to trial under the New York anti-trust action. William F. Crockett, president of that organization told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday by telephone from Norfolk.

The committee appointed by the recent Chicago conference of independent exhibitors recommended in its brief submitted to Assistant U. S. At-

(Continued on page 6)

Eagle Lion Seen As Rank's New Unit

London, Feb. 14.—Lawyers for Odeon Pictures Ltd., have registered the company title "Eagle Lion Distributors, Ltd." It is presumed in trade circles here that this will be the title of the J. Arthur Rank worldwide organization to handle distribution of his British made films.

Odlum Holding $20,545,036 In Film Stocks

Floyd B. Odlum has increased his Atlas Corporation's film stock holdings from $8,512,492 to $20,545,036 in a year, representing a substantial majority of all of the Odlum-Atlas $37,112,621 stock-and-bond holdings of 77 different issues in scores of power, gas, aviation, sugar, tobacco, machinery, bank, automobile, steel, oil, railroad, marine, and other companies.



Floyd B. Odlum

Based on information contained in the company's

(Continued on page 3)

Picture Situation Good For Troops Abroad: Brown

By CHARLES RYWECK

"The motion picture situation for our boys overseas is pretty good now, and is steadily improving," Joe E. Brown, back from a third tour of USO-Camp Shows during which he travelled 47,000 miles, declared yesterday in an interview here.

Except for isolated sections in the Pacific and China, film shows are prevalent everywhere at frequent intervals. In these outlying and almost inaccessible parts, Brown said, poor communications and lack of equipment render it difficult to maintain film entertainment.

Brown declared that the Army, in-

(Continued on page 6)

Skouras to Honor Drive Executives

Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry's 4th War Loan drive, will give a dinner Monday evening at the 21 Club here for heads of film companies, officials of the War Activities Committee and the 12 "Flying Bondsmen," in appreciation of their cooperation during the campaign.

Today marks the official end of the drive. Figures on the industry's participation have not yet been compiled.

The guests at Monday's dinner are those men whose voluntary work in carrying out assigned tasks in the

(Continued on page 6)

Supreme Court Told Crescent Decree Unfair

Brief Attacks Rulings of District Court

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Provisions of the Crescent Amusement Co. decree issued last May 17 by the Federal District Court at Memphis are attacked in a brief filed with the Supreme Court by Crescent and five related companies named as defendants, some as lacking a basis in evidence, others as "unfair and improper" and contrary to ordinary principles of equity jurisprudence.

Particularly attacked are the lower court's rulings with respect to acquisition of theatres, buying of pictures, franchises and mutual ownership.

"The appellants made no question

(Continued on page 6)

Lou Metzger Dies During Operation

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14.—Lou B. Metzger, 49, West Coast exhibitor and member of the War Activities Committee in New York, died at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital here yesterday during an operation. He was stricken ill last Fall in Kansas City while enroute to New York to assume a voluntary post with WAC. Recovering, he continued on to New York and assumed the post for several weeks. He had gone back home for the last yearend holiday and was



Lou Metzger

(Continued on page 3)

Mono. Planning New Foreign Exchanges

Postwar expansion plans for Monogram now in work call for the expansion of studio facilities in Hollywood and the opening of the company's own sales offices in London and Latin America, W. Ray Johnston, president, announced yesterday at a cocktail party at the Warwick Hotel here.

(Continued on page 6)

'Dimes' Collections Here Double 1943's

Circuit collections during the 1944 March of Dimes drive ran, in nearly all cases, 100 per cent ahead of last year in metropolitan New York, Walter Vincent, national treasurer of the theatres' committee, reported here yesterday.

Following are circuit reports: Century, $26,242 ($13,934 in 1943); Skouras, $42,256 ($29,583); Randforce, $25,216 ($9,138); Loew's, $443,782 ($212,142); RKO, $227,500 ($116,249); Fabian, $22,979 ($16,703) Cinema, $7,887 ($3,535); Brandt, $40,000 ($16,000); Walter Reade, $13,076 ($7,178) and Rugoff and Becker, $6,893 ($2,323).

Throughout the country, a total of 2,128 theatres have so far reported collections totaling $688,414. Elmer C. Rhoden, Kansas state chairman, has reported a total of $84,000 against $44,000 in 1943. Harry C. Arthur, Jr., Eastern Missouri chairman of the WAC, reports collections totaling $65,502.

The Fanchon & Marco-St. Louis circuit reported $32,395, against $14,226 last year.

Miller, Donaldson and Co., certified public accountants, have again volunteered to audit the March of Dimes accounts.

WPB Says No Freon To Cool Theatres

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Production of Freon gas will reach 4,800,000 pounds a month by next September, four times the pre-war rate, but there will be none available for theatre cooling plants, it was announced here by the War Production Board.

Two new plants are being built, one to go into operation April 1 at a rate of 1,000,000 pounds a month and another to go into production Sept. 1, at 2,000,000 pounds monthly, WPB said.

Stressing that there are no programs now under consideration for easing the restrictions on the manufacture and distribution of air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment, the Board declared that "vastly increased demands for this refrigerant gas, to be used in essential air-conditioning of war plants, ships, etc., will not permit relaxation of present restrictions on its civilian purchase."

'Lady' Tops Record

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" has surpassed "Star Spangled Rhythm," previous record-holder, by 45 per cent in its first four days at the Hollywood and downtown Paramount theatres, according to the company. Previous record was shattered by $13,100 for the four days at both houses.

Miss Bell to New York

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—Betty Bell has been appointed to the staff of the Institute of Public Relations in New York, effective March 1. She formerly handled film publicity here.

Personal Mention

IRVING MACK, head of Filmack Trailers, Chicago, is in New York on a brief business visit.

•

PAUL LAZARUS, JR., United Artists' advertising and publicity director, returned from the Coast yesterday. He was accompanied from Chicago by CLAUDE MORRIS, Western division publicity representative.

•

JAMES FLOOD, manager of the Oriental, Philadelphia, is recovering from illness at the Presbyterian Hospital there.

•

MAE FINLAYSON, formerly Monogram booker in Philadelphia, was married to LT. WILLIAM EUGENE BANNON last week.

•

JOHN EHRLICH, manager of the Grant, Philadelphia, and MRS. EHRLICH will observe their 25th wedding anniversary tomorrow.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists' Western division sales manager, returned yesterday after ten days in the Midwest.

•

PAUL SCOFIELD of the Warner studio publicity department has returned to the Coast from New York.

•

CHARLES RAMB, manager of Warner's Capitol in Philadelphia, is ill at the Misericordia Hospital there.

•

JACK TROP, producer, will leave Wednesday for Newtown, Conn.

•

COL. H. A. COLE of Dallas is in New York for several days.

C. C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew's vice-president, has been named a member of the board of directors of the Police Athletic League here.

•

ROSE HAND, Columbia chief telephone operator, was guest of honor at a home office party yesterday on the occasion of her 20th anniversary with the company.

•

B. V. STURDIVANT, Northern California division manager of Fox West Coast circuit, is the new vice-president of the California War Chest drive.

•

TESS MICHAEL, United Artists' fan publications contact, left for Hollywood yesterday to confer with U. A. producer representatives.

•

PHIL SHERMAN, manager of the Hamilton, Waterbury, Conn., has become the father of a baby boy born to MRS. SHERMAN last week.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Southern and Canadian sales manager for Universal, will leave today for Nashville. He will return at the end of the week.

•

PHIL REISMAN, RKO vice-president in charge of the foreign department, is enroute to New York from London.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, Warner Bros. short subject sales manager, returned to New York yesterday from a Southern trip.

•

ARTHUR BROMBERG of Atlanta is a visitor here.

Legion Rates 11, 'B' for 'Passage'

The Legion of Decency this week reviewed 11 pictures, of which Warners "Passage to Marseille" was placed in Class B objectionable in part because "in one sequence the unethical killing of helpless enemies is sympathetically presented."

Other classifications follow: "Weekend Pass," Universal, Class A-1, for general patronage; "The Curse of the Cat People," RKO; "Escape to Danger," RKO; "The Ghost That Walks Alone," Columbia; "The Impostor," Universal; "Jane Eyre," 20th Century-Fox; "Meet the People," M-G-M; "Men on Her Mind," PRC; "Passport to Adventure," RKO, and "Swing Out the Blues," Columbia, all Class A-2, for adults.

Cagney Overseas On Camp-Show Tour

James Cagney started yesterday on a three-month tour of U. S. Army and Navy bases in Europe, according to word received at the New York headquarters of USO Camp Shows, which reported Cagney's arrival in England.

The Army Signal Corps has filmed a short subject of the star's rehearsals for the tour and the picture is being used as a trailer in theatres where Cagney will appear.

Columbia Shifts Gins and Roscoe

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Feb. 14.—Joe Gins, Charlotte manager for Columbia Pictures, has been named manager of the company's Detroit exchange, effective Feb. 28. He will be succeeded here by George Roscoe, Columbia salesman. Gins, formerly Columbia salesman in Pittsburgh, came to Charlotte as branch manager two years ago, succeeding R. J. Ingram.

Carl Patterson, now office manager for the Columbia exchange here will draw a sales assignment.

Lewis Joins M-G-M Studio Ad Staff

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Cliff Lewis has joined the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios as assistant to Frank Whitbeck, head of advertising and exploitation.

Lewis was associated with Paramount for 18 years. His first assignment at M-G-M will be "Twenty Years After," to be distributed nationally as part of the observance of that studio's 20th anniversary.

To Screen 'Dance'

Monogram will trade screen "Lady, Let's Dance!" tomorrow morning at 10:30 at the Normandie Theatre here.

Overtime Settles N.Y. Exchange Strike

The strike called for last Sunday by New York IATSE Local B-51 representing some 350 "backroom" employes in exchanges of the majors here has been settled. Though terms of the settlement have not been disclosed it is understood that the exchanges will now operate on a five-day 40-hour week in place of the six-day week as previously, and some most exchanges will remain open Saturday mornings, it is assumed that the "backroom" employes will be able to earn extra money by working overtime. The companies are understood to be willing to grant a ten percent increase but have been stymied by the Wage Stabilization Board with an appeal having been taken to the War Labor Board.

Meanwhile, the strike fever of Local B-45 in Chicago, also representing "backroom" employes, has subsided with a meeting called for Friday night to discuss the acceptance of a proposal similar to the New York formula, according to Sam Lamansky, business manager of the Chicago local.

Jackson Park Trial On

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Trial of the $360,000 anti-trust suit brought by the Jackson Park Theatre against Balaban and Katz, Warner Theatres and the five consent decree companies got under way in Federal Court here today. The opening session was confined to preliminary arguments.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
Joan Fontaine • Orson Welles
"JANE EYRE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
GALA STAGE SHOW
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
In Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
"THREE RUSSIAN GIRLS"
ANNA STEN
KENT SMITH

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Greer Garson
Walter Pidgeon
in M-G-M's
'Madame Curie'
In Person
ED SULLIVAN
and his
REVUE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign. single copies, 10c.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 14

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA is expected here within a fortnight to confer with M-G-M officials.

•

Jack Flynn, western sales manager for M-G-M, is here on his second visit since assuming that post. He held sales meetings in Pacific Coast cities and will confer with Fox-West Coast officials and independents while here.

•

Studio war bond purchases totaled $350,000 today. Molle-Richardson bought $71,000 worth; J. E. Brulatour, $51,674; International Pictures, $75,825, and Universal $150,000, the latter in addition to employes' purchases.

•

Will Jason, for the past five years director of shorts at M-G-M, has been signed by Columbia to direct features. His first assignment will be "Calling All Stars," a musical.

•

Edward Dodds, first assistant to Universal studio manager Martin Murphy, has been made production executive. Dodds has been with the studio 25 years.

•

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced the appointment of Marco Wolff as presentation director for the awards ceremonies.

•

Chairman Frank Carothers of the Industry Red Cross Campaign committee has called an organizational meeting for Wednesday noon at Hotel Roosevelt.

•

Harold Hopper, head of the War Production Board's motion picture section, left yesterday by plane for Washington, where he will stay three weeks.

•

Alton Broidy, member of the Monogram board of directors, is in Hollywood Hospital recuperating from an appendectomy.

•

Robert Kane, executive producer of "The Sullivans," has left 20th-Fox, with which he has been long associated here and in London.

•

Warners have renewed directorial contracts with Jean Negulesco and Delmar Daves.

•

Paul Soskin, London producer, is here conferring with studio executives.

Frank Kalb Dies

Frank H. Kalb, 65, head of maintenance at Warners' film laboratories in Brooklyn, died at the weekend at his home here after a long illness. Surviving are his widow, a son and four daughters.

Ernie Stanton Dies

OAKLAND, Cal., Feb. 14.—Ernie Stanton, 53, of the vaudeville team of Stanton & Stanton, died here at the weekend following a heart attack. His brother, Val Stanton, continued the team's engagement at the local Orpheum, alone.

Decision Sustained, File New Complaint

An arbitration appeal board decision was made public here yesterday and a new clearance complaint has been filed at the Dallas tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

In New York, the arbitration appeal board affirmed the award of the arbitrator at the Oklahoma City tribunal in dismissing the specific-run complaint of J. A. Guest, operator of the Ritz, Duncan, Okla., against Paramount and Griffith Amusement Co., as intervenor. The award stipulates that the plaintiff failed to meet certain conditions of Section 10 of the decree and therefore deemed it inadvisable to remand the proceeding to the arbitrator for further consideration.

At the Dallas tribunal, Eddie Joseph, operator of the Drive-In Theatre and the Yank Theatre, Austin, Texas, filed a clearance complaint against the five consenting companies.

Plaintiff alleges that present clearance of the Drive-In is unreasonable as to time and area; further, that the clearance granted to the York, which is now under construction, to be completed Mar. 1, is also unreasonable.

Others named in the complaint are Interstate Theatres, operating the Paramount, State, Queen, Capitol, Varsity, Texas and Austin; the Ritz, owned by Elmo Hegman, and the Cactus, operated by R. S. Pryor, all in Austin.

400 at Ampa Lunch For Parsons, Brown

Some 400 representatives of the industry in the East yesterday attended a luncheon for Louella O. Parsons, motion picture editor of International News Service, given by the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria.

Joe E. Brown, who has been active in bringing entertainment to members of the Armed Services overseas, recounted his experiences in various theatres of the war. Toastmaster James J. Walker paid tribute to Brown's efforts. Jean Bartell (Miss America of 1943) was another speaker.

Other guests included Paul Whiteman, Arlene Francis, Arleen Whelan, Gail Russell, Edith Head, Jimmy Starr of the Los Angeles *Herald-Express,* Danton Walker and Kate Cameron. Among those on the dais were Gradwell Sears, Ned E. Depinet, Jack Cohn, W. Ray Johnston, John J. O'Connor, Edward Alperson, Hal Horne, S. Barrett McCormick, Mort Blumenstock, Frank Rosenberg, Phil Williams, Charles Reed Jones, Si Seadler, Paul Lazarus, Jr., E. K. O'Shea and Vincent Trotta.

Pickens Founds Charity

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—Jane Pickens declares here that she will devote her future screen and stage earnings to the cure of "spastics" and has called a conference of doctors to outline plans to help finance a hospital here. The Boston Variety Club, whose members have been aiding the Infants and Children's Hospital, has pledged support.

Edgar Selwyn, 68, Dies in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Edgar Selwyn, 68, director and producer, died yesterday at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital following a cerebral hemmorhage Saturday night in Beverly Hills.

Born in Cincinnati, Selwyn was a playwright and actor from 1896 until 1911. He was later associated with his brothers, Arch and the late Michael Selwyn in theatre management before he went into the film industry. In 1916, with Samuel Goldwyn he founded Goldwyn Pictures Corp., the name of which was derived from parts of the surnames of the partners. Selwyn returned to play-producing three years later but went back to Hollywood, as executive producer and director for M-G-M, in 1931.

Selwyn directed "The Sin of Madelon Claudet," which won the 1931-1932 Academy best-acting award for Helen Hayes.

Surviving are his brother, Arch, two sisters and a stepson, Lt. Russell Selwyn of the Army Air Forces. Services will be held tomorrow in Beverly Hills. Interment in New York.

Lou Metzger Dies During Operation

(*Continued from page* 1)

to return to WAC to resume his post, when he was again stricken.

Metzger attained a national reputation through his conception and execution of the complete service film contract. In 1925 he was made sales director for the Western division of Universal. He was appointed general sales manager by Carl Laemmle in 1926, and he became general manager of the company in 1928. Next he was special foreign representative for Columbia and early in 1931 became the company's sales manager, resigning in 1932. Early in 1934 he became U. S. sales agent for British International Pictures while retaining full interest in his Spreckels, Cabrillo and Uptown theatres in Pasadena, the Tower in San Diego, Lamesa in Lamesa, and Broadway here, which he operated at the time of his death.

His funeral will be in San Francisco. Metzger is survived by his widow, Lillian; a daughter, Mrs. Jacqueline Kramer, and an uncle, Gus Metzger.

Schwartz, Pioneer Operator, Passes

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Max Schwartz, 61, a pioneer theatre operator and for the past 20 years a salesman for M-G-M in Chicago, died from coronary thrombosis over the weekend at Presbyterian Hospital here.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Bessie Schwartz; two daughters, Mrs. Sylvia Jaffe and Mrs. Flora Jane Gold, and one son, Lawrence Schwartz. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday at three o'clock.

Mrs. Cannon Passes

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 14.—Mrs. John Cannon, wife of the operator of the Grand Theatre here, died at St. Raphael's Hospital at the weekend. Besides her husband, Mrs. Cannon leaves a son, John, Jr., also associated with the Grand.

Odlum Holding $20,545,036 In Film Stocks

(*Continued from page* 1)

annual statement to stockholders, now in the mails, Odlum-Atlas, at the last count, controlled 1,329,078 shares of RKO common, with a listed value of $11,795,567, and 56,400 shares of RKO six per cent cumulative preferred, listed at $5,640,000. RKO had outstanding 2,873,053 common and 128,170 preferred shares. One year ago Atlas held 1,324,853 common shares, valued then at only $4,636,985 and the same number of preferred, then valued at $3,017,400. Share values increased substantially.

In addition, Atlas had 327,811 shares of RKO option warrants, listed at $491,716. Total holdings in RKO approximated $17,927,283 at the end of the company's last fiscal period, last yearend.

Held Paramount Common

Atlas also held 49,983 shares of Paramount common, listed at $1,187,097, out of 2,933,717 shares outstanding, compared with 30,000 shares, valued at $502,500 one year ago; 37,991 shares of 20th Century-Fox common, valued at $821,556, out of 1,741,995 shares outstanding, compared with 10,000 shares, listed at $141,250 one year ago; 2,000 shares of 20th-Fox $1.50 cumulative preferred, listed at $57,750, compared with 3,500 shares, worth $91,000 one year ago, and 22,850 shares of Walt Disney Productions preferred, listed at approximately $251,350, out of 155,000 shares outstanding, compared with 18,978 shares, listed at $123,357 a year ago.

Odlum reported Atlas 1943 net income was $570,312, compared with a loss of $1,686,810 for 1942. Total income was $3,402,310 last year, an increase from the $1,394,793 for the year before. Expenses rose from $807,481 to $929,578.

Indicated asset value of the common stock of Atlas itself increased $6.45 in the 12 months ended Dec. 31, 1943, Odlum told stockholders. Asset value of the common was $19.01 per share, a 51 per cent increase over the asset value of $12.56 at the end of the previous year.

Asset Value 57% Up

Before setting aside a reserve of $1,718,765, the asset value of the common would have been $19.74, or 57 per cent greater than it was a year previously. This reserve was established for the full premium of $5 per share to which outstanding preferred stock would be entitled upon redemption. This reserve is equivalent to 73 cents per share on the outstanding common.

Odlum also told stockholders the corporation is studying possibilities for the use of its capital in post-war "reconstruction, reconversion and development both at home and abroad."

Gross assets at the end of the year were $64,912,867, compared with $48,913,474 at Dec. 31, 1942.

A dividend of 25 cents per common share has been declared payable March 10, to stockholders of record on Feb. 15. The regular quarterly dividend of 75 cents per share on preferred has also been declared for payment on March 1, to stockholders of record Feb. 15, 1944.

Republic's

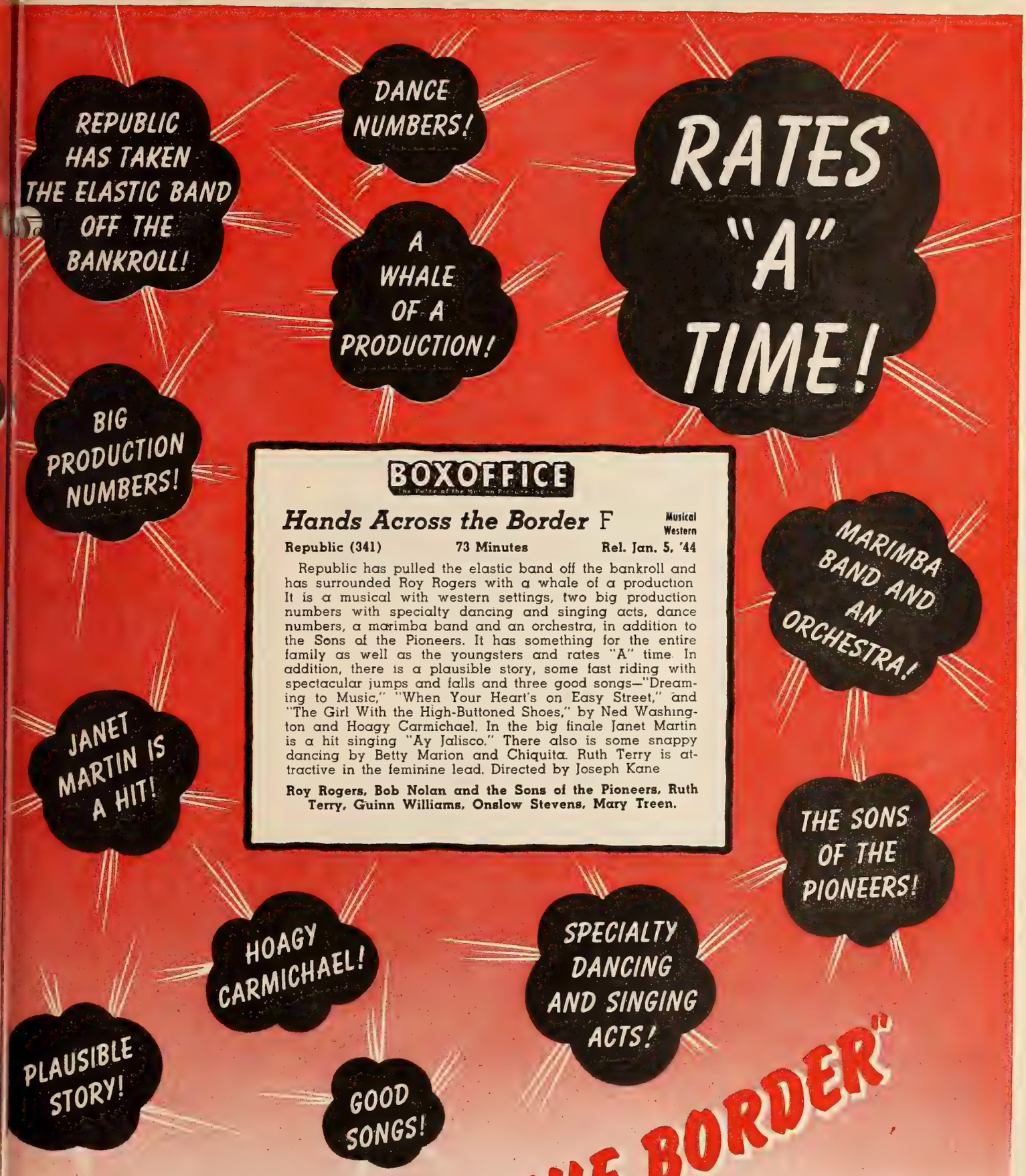
ROY ROGERS and TRIGGER

KING OF THE COWBOYS

SMARTEST HORSE IN THE MOVIES

Take a Bow




REPUBLIC HAS TAKEN THE ELASTIC BAND OFF THE BANKROLL!
DANCE NUMBERS!
A WHALE OF A PRODUCTION!
RATES "A" TIME!
BIG PRODUCTION NUMBERS!
MARIMBA BAND AND AN ORCHESTRA!
JANET MARTIN IS A HIT!
THE SONS OF THE PIONEERS!
HOAGY CARMICHAEL!
SPECIALTY DANCING AND SINGING ACTS!
PLAUSIBLE STORY!
GOOD SONGS!
BOXOFFICE
Hands Across the Border F
Musical Western
Republic (341) 73 Minutes Rel. Jan. 5, '44
Republic has pulled the elastic band off the bankroll and has surrounded Roy Rogers with a whale of a production It is a musical with western settings, two big production numbers with specialty dancing and singing acts, dance numbers, a marimba band and an orchestra, in addition to the Sons of the Pioneers. It has something for the entire family as well as the youngsters and rates "A" time. In addition, there is a plausible story, some fast riding with spectacular jumps and falls and three good songs—"Dreaming to Music," "When Your Heart's on Easy Street," and "The Girl With the High-Buttoned Shoes," by Ned Washington and Hoagy Carmichael. In the big finale Janet Martin is a hit singing "Ay Jalisco." There also is some snappy dancing by Betty Marion and Chiquita. Ruth Terry is attractive in the feminine lead. Directed by Joseph Kane
Roy Rogers, Bob Nolan and the Sons of the Pioneers, Ruth Terry, Guinn Williams, Onslow Stevens, Mary Treen.
"HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER"
RUTH TERRY
GUINN "BIG BOY" WILLIAMS
ONSLOW STEVENS • MARY TREEN
Introducing THE WIERE BROTHERS
BOB NOLAN and
THE SONS OF THE PIONEERS
JOSEPH KANE—Director
Original Screen Play by Bradford Ropes, J. Benton Cheney
BUY U. S. WAR SAVINGS BONDS

Southeastern T. O. Asks Tom Clark for Six Decree Changes

(*Continued from page 1*)

MOTION PICTURE DAILY that he is "largely in agreement" with the SETOA recommendations.

In addition to asking for individual picture sales but without limitation on the number that can be tradeshown and offered by a distributor at one time, SETOA asks for the establishment of regional arbitration appeal boards.

The organization's proposals approve of the holding of tradeshowings. A revision of Section 6 is asked to give protection to the revenue of an exhibitor who may be deprived of a run of product equivalent to the protection given distributors under the section. The decree now permits a distributor to refuse a run if so doing would have the effect of reducing the distributor's revenue.

The proposals point out that Section 7, providing for cancellation of pictures on several grounds of objectionability, would be unnecessary in the event that pictures were sold individually. Liberalization of Section 10 to permit an arbitrator to decide what a fair price for film would be in specific cases, or to make a division of undisputed product between two exhibitors is recommended.

Hillpot Leaves Morris

William Hillpot, associated with the William Morris Agency in the radio department, has resigned from that organization. He was formerly Eastern program manager of the Blue Network.

M-G-M TRADE SHOW CHANGE!

(CHARLOTTE TERRITORY ONLY)

"SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE"

NEW DATE:
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16th
at 10 A.M.
20th-Fox Screening Room
308 So. Church St.
Charlotte, N. C.

Supreme Court Is Told Crescent Decree Unfair

(*Continued from page 1*)

on this appeal as to the applicability of the Sherman Act to the business of exhibition of motion pictures," the court was told.

The companies pointed out that where the court found they had acquired theatres formerly operated by independents, there was no finding that any independent sold out because of a shortage of product. Rather, it was contended, "it was expressly found that the prices charged by the distributors for films were increased when competition entered the town and that this increase in cost of films was one reason for the independent's unwillingness to continue to operate."

The companies refused to assume responsibility for "sell-aways," asserting that where they, rather than an independent, were given films, it was a question of "better business," the independent usually having "a very inferior theatre and in many cases was financially irresponsible and did not have a record of complying with the contract terms."

The court was informed that the Crescent decree places the circuit at a disadvantage to the distributors since while it is to be required to license pictures in competitive situations in order to get films for non-competitive locations, the distributors are left free to require them to take pictures for every theatre it operates in order to get films for any town in which it has competition.

Negotiations Slow Up As Clark Leaves Town

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Progress of the consent decree negotiations will be slowed down for a week or ten days due to the absence from Washington of Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark, who left here tonight.

Virginia Owners Hold for a Decree

(*Continued from page 1*)

torney General Tom C. Clark last week that the Government first proceed with the prosecution of the suit, but that if it so decided consideration should be given to the independents' new eight-point program.

Crockett, one of the special exhibitor decree committee members stressed, however, that his group's position is not to be taken as any sign of disunity in the ranks of the independents represented at Chicago. In revealing the details of the committee's brief last week, Jesse L. Stern, president of Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors of New York, also a member of the committee apparently overlooked mentioning the Virginia groups' stand. As stated in the brief submitted to Clark it is as follows:

"The Virginia group feels that the Department of Justice should seek also first to secure an amended decree containing 'adequate and effective provisions' dealing with circuit expansion, clearance and trade showings."

Mono. Planning New Foreign Exchanges

(*Continued from page 1*)

Expansion plans for the studio will consolidate all personnel offices on the one lot and will add a fourth stage, his announcement revealed. A total of $300,000 will be spent on the improvements. The company's own sales staff will be established in London and offices will be set up in Mexico City as the first of a number of Latin American branches to be opened after the war, he said.

This year, Monogram will produce eight instead of six top pictures and will release 20 other pictures. All "low-bracket" films have been eliminated from the company's program, Johnston said. His announcements were made at the company's sales convention. Edward A. Alperson, RKO Theatres general manager, addressed the convention in connection with the industry's Fourth War Loan Drive and the coming Red Cross Drive.

Skouras to Honor Drive Executives

(*Continued from page 1*)

campaign was, according to Skouras, "among the most valuable contributions to the success of the 4th War Loan campaign."

Among those invited are:

Abe Montague, Leo McCarthy, Ed Morey, Neil Agnew, Charles Reagan, Ben Kalmenson, A. W. Schwalberg, Herman Robbins, George Dembow, Tom Connors, William Kupper, William Michels, Gradwell Sears, Carl Leserman, Paul Lazarus, Sr., William Rodgers, Maxwell Gillis, William Scully, Ed Gomersall, Ned Depinet, Leon Bamberger, Robert Mochrie, Dan Michalove, E. L. Alperson, Harry Brandt, Francis Harmon, Si Fabian, Arthur Mayer, George Schaefer, Ed Schreiber, J. R. Vogel, Maj. L. E. Thompson, Leonard Goldenson, Oscar Doob, Harry Kalmine, Herman Wobber, John H. Harris, Jos. Bernhard, J. R. Grainger and Steve Broidy.

Film Situation Good For Troops Abroad

(*Continued from page 1*)

cluding commanding generals, recognize the therapeutic quality of entertainment for exhausted troops returning from firing lines. The military accepts it as necessary.

The comedian played over 200 shows and covered, in addition to China, South America, the Middle East and Italy. Brown asserted that "clean" entertainment was most acceptable to the men.

"We over here have no idea of what entertainment means to the boys over there," the actor stated. In Persia, 4,700 troops remained outdoors for two hours in a driving rain to catch a show.

Brown said that he had seen some late pictures and some "oldies" during his tour. He attributed the old films to the fact that they were probably shipped by boat. "Troops overseas were most eager for musicals, comedies and action films," he said.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 225 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

FRED J. BOAS, Lansdowne Theatre, Lansdowne, Pa.
RAY T. DAVISON, Rialto Theatre, Winslow, Ariz.
J. B. HARVEY, Carolina Theatre, Clover, S. C.
A. E. ABLESON, Hollywood Theatre, Devils Lake, N. D.
M. M. MAYO, Fox Watson Theatre, Salina, Kan.
C. M. OELREICH, Proctor's Theatre, Yonkers, N. Y.
HUGO D. JORGENSEN, Main Theatre, Rigby, Ida.
J. C. RICKETTS, Allan Theatre, Oakdale, La.
KENNETH J. WRIGHT, United Artists Theatre, Pendleton, Ore.
D. FRIEDLANDER, Woodside Theatre, Woodside, L. I.
ROBERT CARNEY, Poli College Theatre, New Haven.
CHARLES G. HAYWARD, Fox Mission Theatre, San Jose, Cal.

Trial of Percentage Records' Case Starts

(*Continued from page 1*)

dictional grounds was denied by the court today.

The suits, it is learned, are the first of many which the distributors plan to file. The actions here seek an accounting of sums alleged to be due the plaintiffs, and they asked that the defendants be enjoined from disposing of his theatres' books and records.

Statements that cash books and theatre daily records had been disposed of were put into the record with resumption of the trial today through the filing of the deposition of Miss Gertrude Rittenberg, controller of the bookkeeping department of the E. M. Loew theatres. Miss Rittenberg's deposition was taken last month by Edward F. McClennen and Jacob J. Kaplan of the plaintiff's law firm of Nutter, McClennen and Fish of this city, following an examination of defendants' books and records on percentage pictures pursuant to a court order obtained in 1942. At that time the court also enjoined the defendants from removing, altering or disposing of their records.

Calls Allied N. Y. Tax Committee Meet

In line with a decision made at the recent Chicago conference of independent exhibitors, Pete J. Wood, secretary of Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio has called a meeting to be held here on Friday to explore the possibility of Allied's taxation committee joining with other elements in the business in co-ordinating an industry front on tax matters.

Star Withdraws

The clearance complaint of Star Amusement Co., operating the Modern, Brockton, Mass., against the five consenting companies has been withdrawn at the Boston arbitration tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported yesterday.

We Say - "GO!"



We've deleted "STOP!" from every one of our business dictionaries. For us there is no such word. No sir! But "GO!"—that's all over the place, and in everything, and under everything. We know several million different ways to say "GO!" all over trailers, cut-outs, posters, heralds, and accessories. "GO!"—Why, we eat it, breathe it, sleep it. We're in business to make people "GO" to see pictures, and we do it, too. Our trade mark should really be a green light. We make people accelerate, advance, progress, proceed—"GO" to your box office, opening purses, removing rubber bands from wallets, jingling coins, peeling off long greens. So sign up with us and have a "GO" at a lot of new business. Brother, that's what makes this business "GO!"

NATIONAL Screen SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

emember! March 15th deadline for Honored Hundred Bond reports to State Chairmen!"



YOU'LL SHOUT HOORAY FOR THIS GREAT ARRAY of ENTERTAINMENT!

HEY, ROOKIE!

THE KHAKI-GO-WACKIEST MUSICAL SHOW OF 'EM ALL

ANN MILLER

JOE BESSER

JIMMY LITTLE

HAL McINTYRE AND BAND

HI, LO, JACK AND THE DAME

JACK GILFORD

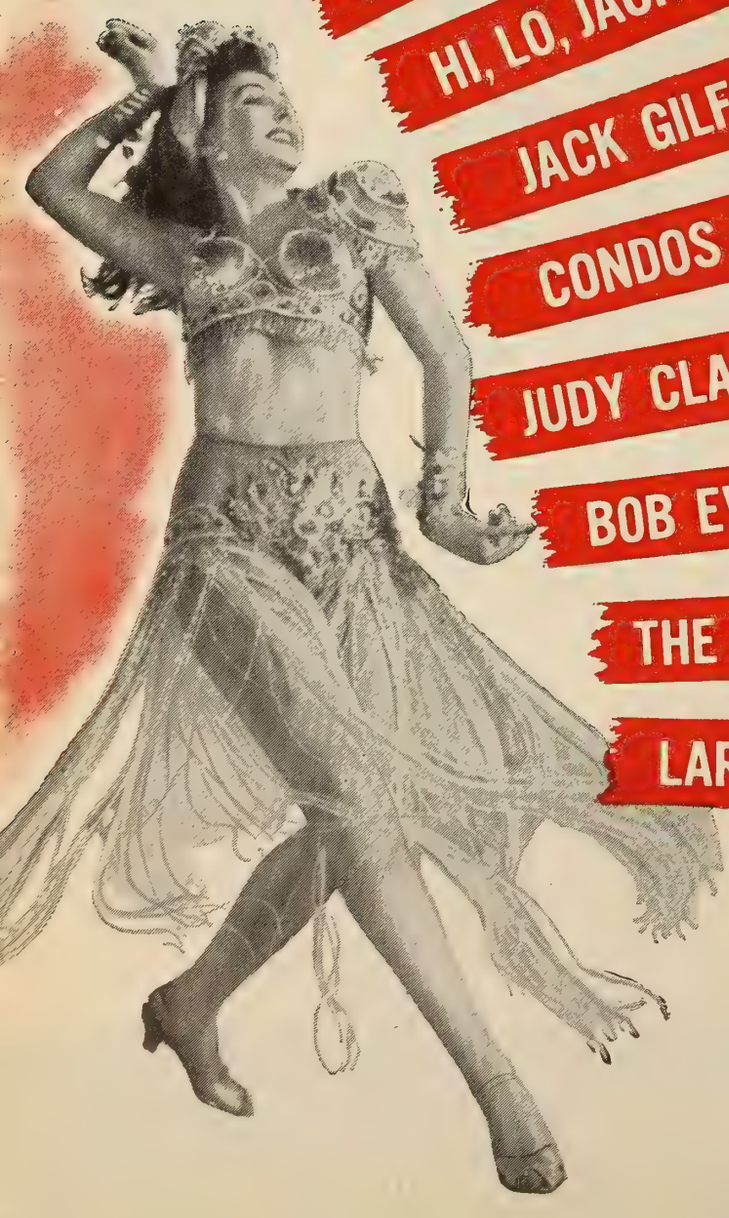
CONDOS BROTHERS

JUDY CLARK AND THE SOLID SENDERS

BOB EVANS WITH JERRY O'LEARY

THE VAGABONDS

LARRY PARKS





36 Laugh-Smash Weeks on the stage! 36 times funnier on the screen!

Screen Play by Henry Myers, Edward Eliscu and Jay Gorney

Directed by CHARLES BARTON · Produced by IRVING BRISKIN

A COLUMBIA PICTURE

FOURTH WAR LOAN.
A BOND FOR EVERY SEAT!

COLUMBIA PICTURES

First Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 33 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1944 TEN CENTS

Public Aided Industry on Loan: Skouras

Cooperation of Groups in Communities Cited

By MILT LIVINGSTON

A key highlight of the industry's participation in the 4th War Loan Drive was the degree of cooperation achieved in integrating bond selling activities with those of the communities in which they functioned and with the several Treasury Department bond groups, Charles P. Skouras, the industry's national chairman for the drive, and his aides, B. V. Sturdivant and F. H. Ricketson, Jr., stated in a joint interview here yesterday. The drive ended yesterday.



Charles Skouras

Skouras stressed that the organiza-

(*Continued on page 5*)

Freeman Lists 19 New Para. Pictures

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—Paramount has 19 pictures completed, in work or preparing, Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount production head reported here today upon his return from home office conferences in New York.

Among them are "Lady in the Dark," "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Frenchman's Creek" in Technicolor, with Joan Fontaine; "The Story of Dr. Wassell," a Cecil B. DeMille production, starring Gary Cooper; "In-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Loew's Pension Plan Ready Late in March

Loew's, Inc. annual stockholders meeting, scheduled for Mar. 14, has been postponed to April, it was learned here yesterday, because a proxy statement which will detail a proposed pension plan will not be completed until the end of March.

All company employes in production, distribution and exhibition would benefit by the pension, including talent, it is understood.

Camden Bans Attendance By Unescorted Children

CAMDEN, Feb. 15.—All motion picture theatres in this city were served notice last night by David S. Rhone, Camden director of public safety, that all children under 14 are to be barred from all theatres regardless of the hour of day, unless accompanied by a parent or an adult. The order, effective immediately, seriously affects Saturday and Sunday matinees, designed expressly for children.

Camden county prosecutor Gene R. Mariano explained that the order invoked a 33-year old law which has never been enforced heretofore and was issued in an effort to curb the serious juvenile delinquency problem here.

Mariano alleged that many child offenses start in theatres, and said

(*Continued on page 8*)

Goldberg Red Cross Campaign Manager

Joseph Bernhard, industry chairman for the industry's Red Cross drive, yesterday appointed Harry Goldberg, director of advertising-publicity for Warner Theatres, as campaign manager for the 1944 Drive, which runs from Mar. 23 through Mar. 29.



Harry Goldberg

Lou Brager, also of Warner Theatres, will work with Goldberg as assistant campaign director. Charles A. Smakwitz, assistant zone manager and advertising head of Warner Theatres in New York State, has been appointed publicity director.

Sturges, Hughes Form Producing Company

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15. — Preston Sturges and Howard Hughes have formed a company and leased studio space to produce an undetermined number of pictures, Sturges told MOTION PICTURE DAILY today. No releasing arrangements have been made as yet.

Hughes' last production venture, "The Outlaw," was roadshown in San Francisco a year ago.

Smith Would Triple Output Of Projectors

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. — In a move to head off the danger of theatres having to close next year because of lack of equipment, Allen G. Smith, chief of the WPB Theatre Service Division, will submit a program to the War Production Board materials division this week calling for the production of a large number of projectors.

While exhibitors up to now have been able to secure needed replacements from dealers' inventories and will be able to get through this year on the limited number of machines which will be produced under WPB allocations, surveys recently made show that by 1945 large numbers of

(*Continued on page 8*)

Percentage Suit Trial Is Extended

BOSTON, Feb. 15.—Trial of the suits by eight major distributors in U. S. District Court here seeking an accounting of sums alleged to be due them on percentage pictures which played E. M. Loew theatres, independent circuit, was extended for several days by the Court today. The trial originally was set for two days only.

Most of today's session was occupied with the introduction of evidence

(*Continued on page 8*)

'U' Promotes Dodds, Weiner and Spitz

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15. — Edward Dodds, assistant to Martin Murphy, Universal studio manager, was promoted today to production executive. He will work with associate producers Edward Lilley and Frank Gross.

The promotion of Dodds moves Morris Weiner and Henry Spitz up also. The latter two now become assistants to Murphy. Dodds is a veteran of Universal. He is starting his 25th year on the lot, 18 of them as assistant to Murphy. Weiner has spent 20 years in the production spot, and Spitz five.

32 Exchanges In U.S.-Canada For Rank Firm

Kelly Says Eagle-Lion Will Offer 15 Films

Eagle-Lion Distributors, the new company organized to furnish worldwide distribution for selected product sponsored by J. Arthur Rank of London, will be the first British film company to have its own branches around the world, Arthur W. Kelly, who heads the company's Western hemisphere operations, said yesterday.

Confirming the exclusive MOTION PICTURE DAILY story of last Monday that Rank definitely had decided to set up his own American company patterned after United Artists' operations, rather than to acquire a controlling interest in an existing company here,

(*Continued on page 8*)

Hays Returns, Sees More Quality Films

Current plans of the industry to increase the production of high-quality entertainment films despite war-time obstacles were stressed yesterday by Will H. Hays, president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, in a statement to MOTION PICTURE DAILY following his return to New York after three weeks in Hollywood, where he presided at the annual meeting of the Association.



Will H. Hays

"Hollywood is very busy," said Hays. "The industry's job has been

(*Continued on page 8*)

Skouras to London On Post-War Plans

Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, was scheduled to leave for London last night. While there he will study 20th-Fox's post-war possibilities in both Great Britain and Continental Europe, and also lay plans for British production and arrange for

(*Continued on page 8*)

Personal Mention

HARRY LOWENSTEIN, president of New Jersey Allied, and MRS. LOWENSTEIN are observing their 20th wedding anniversary.

•

JAMES D. MILLER, former manager of the print department at Universal's New York exchange, has been discharged from the Army and is now touring branches on a special assignment.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division sales manager for Warners, and ED HINCHY, head of the playdate department, will return today from New England.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M vice-president in charge of advertising and promotion, is due back from the Coast tomorrow.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, in charge of M-G-M exchange operations, is confined to his home with an injury resulting from a fall.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, will leave for the Coast tomorrow on a business and vacation trip.

•

MARTIN J. MULLEN of M & P Theatres in Boston, and CHESTER STODDARD, film buyer and booker of the circuit, are New York visitors.

•

GEORGE ARCHIBALD, British Ministry of Information executive, has arrived in London from New York.

•

SIDNEY JUSTIN, Paramount studio attorney, will leave Sunday for the Coast after two weeks here.

•

CAPT. HARRY BERNSTEIN, formerly head of Loew's real estate department, has been promoted to major.

•

HASKELL M. MASTERS will leave for Toronto tonight following a brief New York visit.

•

JOSEPH KINSKY, formerly with Paramount in Chicago, is visiting in New York.

•

MAURICE BERGMAN, Universal Eastern advertising-publicity head, will return from Chicago tomorrow.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, Warner short subject sales manager, will leave tonight on a Midwest tour.

•

SAMUEL BRONSTON, United Artists producer, is in town from Hollywood.

•

SAM MACHNOVITCH, Universal treasurer, is on the Coast.

•

PAT POWERS, 20th-Fox exploiteer, returned yesterday from Baltimore.

•

HOWARD LEVINSON of Warner legal staff, is in Chicago for a week.

•

SID ZINS, Columbia exploiteer in Cleveland, is a flu victim.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Feb. 15

PRECEDENTS are a cinch to establish in impressionable Hollywood. Years ago, cameras became restless because of the influence of those two famous German imports, "Variety" and "The Last Laugh." It got so bad for a time that sitting in a theatre anticipating enjoyment was like experiencing an extreme case of seasickness. Quiet was restored finally, but it took time.

Much, much later came "Gone With the Wind" and that left, and is leaving, its impress. Attractions in seven staggering figures, constructed in a pattern allowing road show treatment, have been attempted ever since David O. Selznick attempted and did it. Quiet has not been restored yet and probably won't be as long as theatre grosses continue in their abnormal orbit.

■

A latter day phase of this latter day tendency now makes a regular appearance in the persistent length of many pictures. It is typically and perhaps best illustrated by the producer who knows the plan to release "Since You Went Away" in three and one-half hours. He sees no reason why the one he is polishing off cannot be let loose in the same length.

A friendly associate told him by reminding of such factors as audience turnover, double bill policies and theatre operating expenses. He also told the producer how exhibitors can pick out two or three reels and forget to run them.

"They wouldn't do that, would they?", asked the producer.

■ ■

Michael Curtiz, champion director in 1942-43 according to the *Motion Picture Herald-Fame* poll, enjoys a wide reputation in another field as well: The atrocities he perpetrates on the language.

Sidney Skolsky has been reporting many of these assorted gems for some time in his column. Now your observer is in qualified position to report one with authority. He was there.

It happened on the Warner lot. Pleasantly chiding Alex Evelove, Curtiz said:

"You don't pay enough attention to me. Why don't you come around to see me once in a mile?"

Hal Wallis, champion producer in the same poll, adds to the collection. He tells of an occasion when Curtiz was in New York and walked "upside down" in front of the Waldorf. Up and down was what he meant.

■ ■

When a onetime sales manager turns producer, this can happen:

Jules Levey, now thigh deep in "The Hairy Ape," was handed the results of one morning's shooting, noted three and one-half pages of the script had been covered, got on his feet, kissed the report and yelled, "Whoops!"

Martin Quigley asked him his opinion of the Academy winner for 1943. "Not so sure about that, but I can tell you the winner for 1944," Levey remarked.

You're on your own from here.

■ ■

RKO has been fussing with a new ending for "Tender Comrade," realizing the original finish was not as consistent as might be. This observation, incidentally, was ours and was so reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY when the Ginger Rogers vehicle was reviewed.

A new approach was concocted and shot, failed to come off. The first ending remains.

■ ■

Orson Welles wrote it and Bill Goetz had it lettered and mounted on wood for permanent exhibition in International's well-stocked commissary:

"Every ambitious employe should work and worry every minute of the day so he can get to the top and work and worry days, nights, Sundays and holidays."

■ ■

Buddy De Sylva observed his third anniversary as executive producer for Paramount the other day. "How does it feel?", someone queried and drew this answer:

"Ever have a hammer hit you on the head every day of the year for three years?"

■ ■

Executive dining room chitchat at Warner:

"We need an elephant for 'The Horn Blows at Midnight'."

"Not only that. We need an elephant with a Brooklyn accent," qualified Mark Hellinger.

■ ■

Having made fifty Hopalong Cassidys, Harry Sherman talks now of a very limited number of pictures a year. Number limited, size and cost not so. With Bill Boyd out of the Hoppys, future of the series is in doubt.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 15

THE industry's 4th War Loan Drive here brought $12,500,000, topping all previous campaigns, according to Chairman Henry Ginsberg of the War Finance Committee. Late reports from banks and other cooperating agencies are expected to swell the total by another $500,000.

•

Columbia has elevated Virginia van Upp, writer, to a producer's status. Her first production assignment will be her original story, "The Impatient Years", followed by "What's Wrong With Love?"

•

RKO today announced a deal for the continuation of the Leon Errol and Edgar Kennedy comedy shorts on next year's program.

•

Jose Iturbi, noted concert pianist, is off on a concert tour, but will return in May to appear in "Dear Barbara" for M-G-M.

•

David O. Selznick anticipates a May release for "Since You Went Away." Final length will run about three hours and a half.

•

June Allyson, Nancy Walker and Lou Holtz are back from eight weeks of personal appearances at the Capitol, New York.

•

Sol Lesser has announced as his next picture for United Artists "Mission 51," an original story about Air Force pilots at redistribution centers.

•

Monogram has announced "The Gold Bug" for production by Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz. Bela Lugosi will be starred.

•

William Goetz has announced the addition of Frank Morgan to the cast of "Casanova Brown", the Gary Cooper starrer, for International Pictures.

•

George W. Weeks will produce "Tojo's Children," original by Jim Hawthorne, as an exploitation special.

•

Universal has announced "Murder in the Blue Room," with Frank Gross producing.

•

Hal B. Wallis, Warner producer, will leave for New York on Friday.

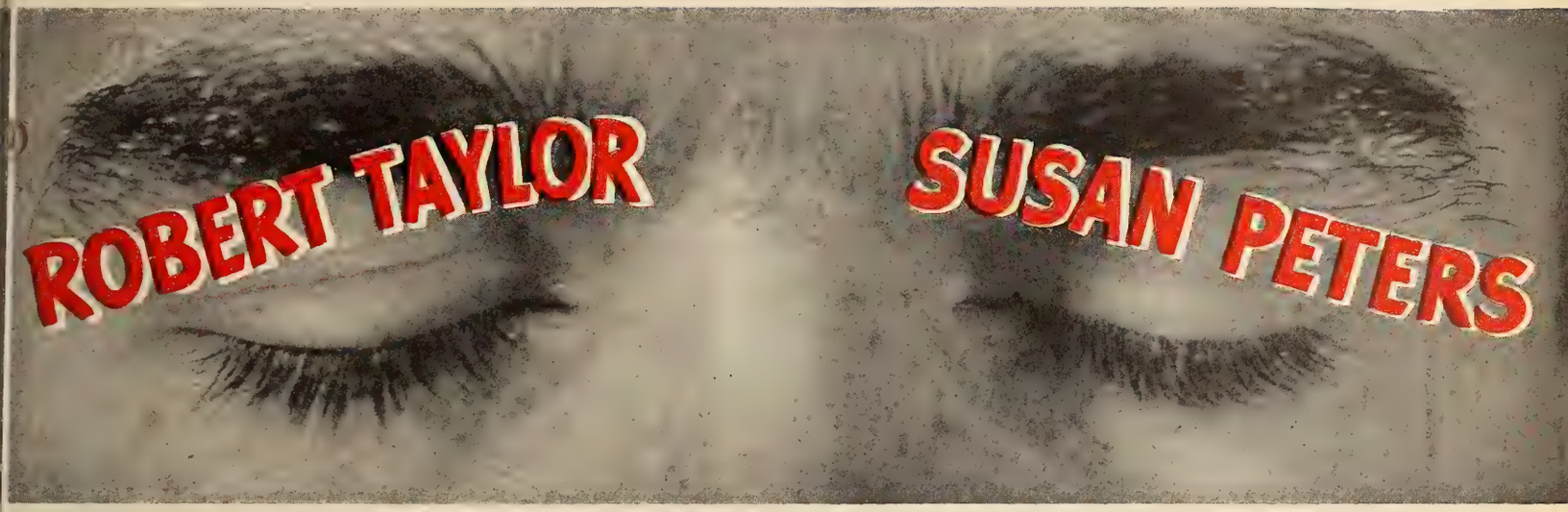
Rodgers Back Friday, Will Set Sales Meet

Wiilliam F. Rodgers, vice-president in charge of sales for M-G-M, will return from a Miami vacation Friday and after a few days here he will leave for the Culver City studios, where he will look at a number of new pictures and will set up the company's seventh block for this season.

While in New York Rodgers will map plans for a sales meeting to be held within the next few weeks. Dates and places will be set before he embarks for the studios.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign. single copies, 10c.

EYE



OPENER!



THE STORY: Yank meets Miss and ends like this: →



THE BUSINESS: "Something to sing about!"

(Opening at Capitol, N. Y. tops "A Guy Named Joe" and it's doing sensational 176% business nationwide!)



THE CREDITS: Robert Taylor, Susan Peters in "Song of Russia" with John Hodiak, Robert Benchley and Felix Bressart. Screen Play by Paul Jarrico, Richard Collins. Directed by Gregory Ratoff. Produced by Joseph Pasternak. An M-G-M Picture.

(Sure it's one of M-G-M's Starrific Group "Vitamin 12")

"Remember! March 15th Deadline for Honored Hundred Bond Reports to State Chairmen!"

Grosses Recover After 30% Drop on B'way from Storm

New York's first heavy snowstorm this Winter, at the weekend, caused close to a 30 percent drop in business last Friday and early Saturday, leading Broadway theatres to lower grosses than in several weeks. Later weekend business was big, however, despite cold and heavy going underfoot and most houses yesterday were still registering nicely. Radio City Music Hall with "Jane Eyre" and a stage show expects a second week's gross of 103,500 after rolling up $68,000 on the first four days. The bill will hold for a third week.

The initial week of "The Sullivans" and a stage show headed by Martha Raye at the Roxy will yield approximately $85,000 and will hold for a second week. "Song of Russia" and a stage show headlining the Mills Brothers, Buck and Bubbles and Lionel Hampton's band at the Capitol will do $75,000 on its first week and will hold over. Fourth week of "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and a stage show presenting Johnny Long and his band and Hazel Scott will hit $72,000 and will hold. The Strand's first week of "In Our Time" and a stage bill featuring Ina Ray Hutton and the Three Stooges are expected to gross $57,000. The bill will hold for a second week.

"Song" Will Do $50,000

"The Song of Bernadette" is leading the Rivoli to $50,000 for its third week and will hold over. The third week of "Gung Ho!" at the Criterion will bring $30,000 and the picture will hold for a fourth. The Astor's fifth week of "Lifeboat" is expected to yield $17,500; the picture will hold over. The second week of "Three Russian Girls" at the Palace will gross approximately $16,000. RKO's "Action in Arabia" will open at the Palace on Friday.

The final five days of the ninth week of "Desert Song" at the Hollywood brought $8,500. "Passage to Marseille" will open there today. The fifth and final week of "Where Are Your Children?" at the Globe will gross $11,000, winding up the run. Paramount's "The Uninvited" will open at the Globe on Saturday. The New Victoria will gross $14,000 on its 15th week of "The North Star"; the picture will continue at that theatre. "Calling Dr. Death" will gross $11,000 in its first week at the Rialto; it will hold over.

Loew's State will become a first-run this week with Universal's "Phantom Lady," opening tomorrow.

Industry Leaders Are Selwyn Pallbearers

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—Funeral services were held today for Edgar Selwyn, director and producer, who died Sunday at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital following an operation, in Beverly Hills. Pallbearers included Louis B. Mayer, Edward Mannix, Benjamin Thau, Joseph M. Schenck, Edwin Knopf and Arthur Freed.

Jesse Lasky delivered the eulogy and Dr. Ernest Trattner of Temple Emanuel read the 23rd Psalm. Interment will be in New York.

Review

"Passage to Marseille"

(Warner Brothers)

Hollywood, Feb. 15

PRESENTING many of the members of the "Casablanca" cast, but not otherwise related to that property, this Hal B. Wallis, "Passage to Marseille," directed by Michael Curtiz, is a melodrama dedicated in a foreword to the Free French Air Force. It is told in a series of flashbacks, within some of which are still other flashbacks, and its appeal is broad rather than sharp, general rather than particularized, like that of a tapestry on which are displayed many things of interest pertaining to a central theme. The theme in this case is the love of Frenchmen for France as she was and, if fighting can make it so, will be again.

Humphrey Bogart tops a cast that includes Claude Rains, Philip Dorn, Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, George Tobias, Helmut Dantine, John Loder, Victor Francen, Vladimir Sokoloff, Edward Ciannelli, Michele Morgan (the only feminine member of the cast and in the film briefly) and many others, all delivering skilled performances.

The screenplay by Casey Robinson and Jack Moffitt, from a novel by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall, traces in intricate pattern the experiences of five French convicts who escape from the penal colony in Guiana intent upon fighting for France. They are picked up at sea by a French freighter under command of a loyal Frenchman and they arrive in England—after an attempt by a Vichy-minded French officer to take charge of the vessel and after an attack on the ship by a Nazi bomber—where they become members of the Free French Air Force. Bogart, playing the leader of the convicts, dies on a bombing mission at the close of the picture.

The personalities presented aggregate plenty of drawing-power, and the film fulfills the promise inherent in their billing.

Running time, 108 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Studio Drivers Join In MPA Campaign

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—An executive board meeting of the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals last night received notification of the unanimous approval of the MPA campaign against Communism and Fascism in the industry by the Studio Transportation Drivers' Union (AFL teamsters). The drivers, numbering 850, voted to join MPA in a group, Secretary Ralph Clare told MOTION PICTURE DAILY. "An organization like this, opposed to anything un-American, is natural for teamsters," he said.

President Sam Wood of the MPA named Walt Disney chairman of the patriotic awards committee; Clarence Brown chairman of the industry membership drive, and Norman Taurog chairman of the fraternal and religious contacts committee.

Columbia Dedicates Drive to Sales Force

Columbia has dedicated its "Dates to Win" sales campaign to its field sales force, A. Montague, general sales manager, announced here yesterday. The drive, already under way, will end June 22 and involves the biggest distribution of awards in the company's history, it was said.

Division supervisors, branch managers, salesmen, office managers and all bookers in the 31 branches may participate in the competition for war bonds and cash prizes.

'Mick' Larson Dies

OAKLAND, Neb., Feb. 15.—H. M. ("Mick") Larson, operator of the Majestic Theatre and one of this state's veteran exhibitors, died here recently after a long illness.

Report Progress in PRC Policy Parleys

Progress is being made in current discussions between the PRC franchise holders and the management concerning PRC administration policies, it was learned here yesterday. Company officials, it is understood, are agreeing to remedy certain conditions which were contained in a series of resolutions presented to management by the franchise holders.

The committee representing the exchange operators in the negotiations are: Nat Lefton, Cleveland, chairman; Henri Elman, Chicago; Ike Katz, Atlanta, and George Gill, Washington. Leon Fromkess, PRC vice-president in charge of production; Leo J. McCarthy, general sales manager, and George Bonwick, treasurer, represent management.

Canada United Front Conference Today

TORONTO, Feb. 15.—The conference here of all branches of the Canadian film industry, scheduled for today, has been postponed until tomorrow so that all principals interested in the united-front proposals may attend. The session *in camera,* is expected to last until late in the day because of comprehensive deliberations.

Graetz Gets 'Undercover'

"Undercover," new film dramatizing activities of the Yugoslav guerrillas, has been acquired for the United States and Latin America by Paul Graetz. It was produced in England in 1943 by Michael Balcon. Pending negotiations with the E. P. Dutton Co., publishers of John Roy Carlson's "Undercover," Graetz may issue the picture in this country under another title.

Warner Bros. Deny 'Love Nest' Charge

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., and two music publishers, Harms, Inc., and Music Publishers Holding Corp., filed answers in Federal Court here today denying generally the charges contained in a $100,000 damage action filed against them by Laurence J. Hirsch, executor of the estate of Louis A. Hirsch, composer. The action involves alleged copyright infringement of the song "Love Nest," used in Warners' film, "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Other defendants are the Victoria Publishing Co. and Otto Harbach, who collaborated with Hirsch on the song. The plaintiff alleges that Warners deliberately misrepresented the authorship, resulting in the implication that the late George M. Cohan, on whose life the film was based, was the author.

In the answers filed today dismissal of the action is demanded and the defendants maintain that during the period of the film's production the estate of Louis A. Hirsch was a member of Ascap and, as such, gave Ascap exclusive public performance rights in the song in the film.

No Adverse Laws For New Jersey

"The industry has a clean slate on the New Jersey legislative docket," Thornton Kelly, New Jersey Allied executive, reported yesterday. Jersey Allied this week held its annual legislative luncheon at the Stacy Trent Hotel, Trenton, at which legislators were present. Harry H. Lowenstein, Jersey Allied president, officiated.

Present at the meeting, in addition to Allied members, were: Howard Eastwood, president of the State Senate; Walter Van Riper, State Attorney-General; Arthur W. Magee, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and State Senators Wallace, Wesley, Armstrong and Scholl.

'U' to Distribute 'Marines at Tarawa'

Universal will distribute "With the Marines at Tarawa," Government 2-reel documentary in Technicolor. The film, protographed by Louis Hayward, husband of Ida Lupino, was cut and edited by the Warner studio. "Tarawa" is reported to be the best Government war picture to date.

A screening of the film will be held at Universal's home office on Thursday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m.

Virginia Morris of UA To Join 20th-Fox

Virginia Morris, United Artists feature publicity writer, will join the 20th Century-Fox advertising department in New York under Charles Schlaifer on Feb. 28.

Though no definite spot has yet been assigned, it is understood that she will replace Jac Thal, who has resigned to join Donohue and Coe.

Matty Fox in London

Pvt. Matty Fox, former Universal vice-president, has arrived safely in London, Universal officials were advised yesterday.

'Honored Hundred' Of 4th War Loan

For distinguished service in the 4th War Loan effort, the national WAC campaign committee of the industry has named 238 motion picture theatre owners and managers to date. Those added to the list yesterday were:

REED ROSSER, Capitol Theatre, Wheeling, W. Va.
MRS. GEORGE ROBERTSON, White Sands Theatre, Alamogordo, N. M.
A. B. COVEY, State Theatre, Kingsport, Tenn.
HARLAN TROY, Clinton Theatre, Frankfort, Ind.
R. FAILES, Laurel Theatre, Long Beach, N. Y.
EDWIN W. McGILL, Tivoli Theatre, Frederick, Md.
MATT WHITHAM, Tift Theatre, Tifton, Ga.
A. J SCHUBERT, Schubert Theatre, Gooding, Ida.
DAN CORNWALL, JR., Ramond Theatre, Wheatland, Wyo.
L. PARMENTIER, Liberty and Capitol Theatres, Walla Walla, Wash.
CLARENCE SCHWARTZER, Orpheum Theatre, Flagstaff, Ariz.
RAY SEARCH, Fox Theatre, McCook, Neb.
WILSON DAY, Melba Theatre, Batesville, Ark.

Philadelphia Starts Children's Film Club

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15.—A film critics' club for high-school children will be launched Saturday, Feb. 26, by the Division of Visual Education of the Philadelphia Board of Education. Designed to afford young people an opportunity to become more familiar with production pictures and to enrich their appreciation of films, the group will meet Saturday mornings at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which is cooperating in the project.

The club will serve as a forum for current films.

A critical evaluation of major Hollywood releases will be made through cooperation of Warner Theatres here. Local newspaper film critics and film exchange representatives will serve as leaders and advisers.

UIE Pledged Relief By 'U' If Warranted

The New York Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors trade practice committee, comprised of Jesse Stern, Jac Leff, Max Cohen and Max Wallach, met yesterday with William A. Scully, Universal general sales manager; E. T. Gomersall, assistant general sales manager, and David Levy, Metropolitan district manager, to discuss exhibitor problems relating to rentals, re-issues and selling of shorts.

The committee was assured by the company executives that individual theatres requiring relief would be given consideration where warranted.

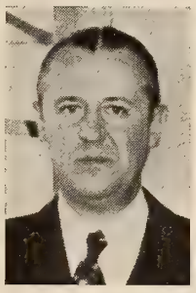
Nizer in Air Forum

Louis Nizer, film attorney and author of the book "What To Do About Germany", will participate in an authors' forum dealing with Germany on radio station WEVD in New York tomorrow evening. Other authors who will participate are Konrad Heiden, Dr. David Dallin and Major Erwin Lessner.

Skouras Cites Community, Film Bond Cooperation

(*Continued from page 1*)

tional work instituted for the 4th War Loan will yield results in future drives. An example of this, according to Skouras is the ideas brought back by the 12 "Flying Bondsmen" who visited the field. Another will be the reports submitted by winners in the "Honored Hundred" contest. Winners will be selected Mar. 15 and will be summoned to Washington to help plan a 5th War Loan Drive, Skouras revealed.



B. V. Sturdivant

Final figures on industry bond sales in the drive will be released after the Treasury issues its national figures, Skouras said. He explained that totals claimed by the industry in previous drives were contested by various groups which had cooperated.

Skouras paid tribute to the WAC distribution division headed by Ned E. Depinet for its help in enlisting distributors in the drive; to Herman Robbins, National Screen president, for distribution of trailers and advertising kits; to film salesmen for their help to exhibitors who sold bonds; to the trade press for its aid in publicizing the campaign. He also paid tribute to Richard F. Walsh, president of IATSE, for enlisting the cooperation of projectionists.

In the campaign to sell a bond for each of the 11,500,000 theatre seats in the country, Skouras revealed that 3,300 bond premieres had been held; 4,000 "Free Movie Days" were arranged and millions of free theatre tickets were given to bond purchasers. He said that special war loan films every week on every screen were seen 285,000,000 times. Also, that 10,000 managers entered the "Honored Hundred" bond selling competition, and there were 14,000 theatre front displays. There were 61,440 outdoor bond-selling events by showmen. Approximately 195,000 people from the industry were actively engaged in the campaign, plus numerous others from the outside who cooperated directly, the campaign directors reported.



F. H. Ricketson, Jr.

Other industry activities on behalf of the drive included nationwide tours of war hero and Hollywood personality bond battalions; the flying bondsmen tours; more than 15,000 theatre bond booths and box offices took war bond orders; swing-shift bond premieres were held.

Summing up some of the industry "firsts" in the campaign, Skouras pointed out that it was the first time that the Treasury had arranged a Coast-to-Coast radio tribute to the industry. Exhibitor meetings which launched the drive and continued through the campaign with seven district meetings followed by some 40 state meetings, was another innovation, according to Skouras. Greater cooperation between exhibitors and the WAC was effected in the drive, he added.

Loew's Circuit Sells 10 Millions in Bonds

Total 4th War Loan bond sales for Loew's circuit through Feb. 13 stand at $10,082,628, the company reported here yesterday. This represents sales of 126,387 individual bonds. Leading is Joseph Samartano, manager of Loew's Poli Palace, Meriden, Conn., who has sold four times his theatre's capacity. Loew's Columbia, Washington; Astor, New York, and Loew's American, Bronx, have doubled capacity quotas.

Protest Theatres' Using Star Quotes

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—The industry's Public Information Committee in its fortnightly session today resolved to protest the use of star quotes by theatres, and entertainment centers without authorization from the sudio holding the player's contract. It is pointed out that a star's personal permission for quotes does not constitute a contractual waiver.

Crystal Moves Offices

Crystal Pictures, Inc., has moved its offices here from 729 to 723 Seventh Ave.

WAC to Release Five Films During March

During March, five war information films will be distributed by the War Activities Committee. Three are 10-minute subjects and two are the brief "Film Bulletins."

"The Why of Wartime Taxes," is set for Mar. 9. It was made by Columbia. Set for Mar. 16 is "Prices Unlimited," produced by Universal. "America's Hidden Weapon," Warner production, is scheduled for Mar. 30. "Film Bulletins" Nos. 12 and 13 will be attached to the five newsreels and later given supplementary distribution They will appear Mar. 2 and 23.

Third Decoration For Bernhard's Son

Lt. Jack Bernhard, U. S. Army Air Force and a former Universal producer, has been awarded his third decoration for valor, the Distinguished Flying Cross, according to word received in New York yesterday. He had previously received the Air Medal and an Oak Leaf Cluster for distinguished action in the European war theatre.

Lt. Bernhard is the son of Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Bros. Theatres, who also has two other sons in service.

Short Subject Review

"Post War Jobs?"

(*March of Time-20th-Fox*)

The timely topic of post-war absorption of war workers and service men and women into normal industry receives a most effective treatment in this latest March of Time. "Post War Jobs?" shows how industry is meeting the employment problem, already appearing in many places.

The U. S. Committee for Economic Development is shown in action as it prepares for any crisis. The subject has been well handled and is certain to be of interest to most. Commentary is excellent. Running time, 18½ mins.

WB Stockholders Reelect Directors

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 15.—Warner stockholders at their annual meeting here today reelected six directors and approved the management's proposal to amend the company's certificate of incorporation.

Warner home office executives attending included Joseph H. Hazen, vice-president; Robert W. Perkins, secretary and general counsel; Samuel Carlisle, controller and assistant treasurer; W. Stewart McDonald, assistant treasurer, and E. K. Hessberg, assistant secretary.

Directors unanimously re-elected for another two years were: Harry M. Warner, Major Albert Warner, Jack L. Warner, Joseph Bernhard, Robert W. Perkins and Waddill Catchings.

The adopted amendment related to stock capitalization. Since the company redeemed and retired all its preferred stock last year, article four of the certificate has been amended to eliminate every reference to preferred stock.

Jacques Kopfstein, a Warner minority stockholders, offered $1,000,000 at the meeting for 50 WB pictures more than five years old, stating that this would make it possible for the company to pay a 5 per cent dividend. No action on the proposal was taken.

Pope to Gloversville

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Christ Pope, booker-manager for the Schine circuit here, has been transferred to the Gloversville home office to take charge of bookings for Albany territory Schine theaters.

Gus Lynch, Schine executive, will take over Pope's post here.

Theatre Management Record and Annual Tax Register

■ Easy accounting system that enables you to keep an accurate, complete and up-to-the-minute record of the business of your theatre. $2.00 Postpaid

QUIGLEY BOOKSHOP
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STILL GOING STRONG...
NEW ENGLAND
SAN FRANCISCO AREAS

C

NONE SH

AT THE LAFAYETTE
TOPPED COLUMBIA
AT THIS THEATRE
MY SISTER EILEEN
BY $600, OPENING

umbia's

ALL ESCAPE

HEATRE, BUFFALO

S BIGGEST GROSSER

COMING UP...

FOX Theatre, DETROIT
PALACE Theatre, MILWAUKEE
LOEW'S Theatre, INDIANAPOLIS
LOEW'S Theatre, LOUISVILLE
MALCO Theatre, MEMPHIS
ARKANSAS Theatre, LITTLE ROCK

Y!

"REMEMBER! MARCH 15th DEADLINE FOR HONORED HUNDRED BOND REPORTS TO STATE CHAIRMEN!"

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Smith Asks WPB to Triple Output of Film Projectors

(*Continued from page* 1)

machines, many of which were old when we entered the war, will be breaking down irremediably and will have to be replaced if theatres are not to close, Smith disclosed today.

It takes up to nine months to produce new equipment and the first of the 250 projection systems authorized last year are now being delivered. The present program calls for the production of 100 sets in each of the first two quarters of this year, and Smith will ask to have as many as 300 to 400 a quarter authorized for the third and fourth quarters.

The projected program is to provide equipment for replacement purposes only, and no consideration is being given at this time to apparatus for new theatres, which now can be built only in approved locations and by exhibitors having their booth equipment on hand.

Camden Restricts Child Attendance

(*Continued from page* 1)

that the new order was a means of stopping them. He also announced that the order will be enlarged to take in the entire county.

Exhibitors, stunned by the sudden presentation of the order, are expected to form a committee today to discuss the situation with Rhone. They said that if the order is rigidly enforced it will cut heavily into receipts and ruin all matinees.

According to the law invoked, theatre operators breaking the law are guilty of a misdemeanor and are subject to a fine of $100 for each offense. In issuing the order the director of public safety added that the ciey curfew law, calling for all children under 16 to be off the streets by 10 P.M., will also be rigidly enforced.

Skouras to London On Post-war Plans

(*Continued from page* 1)

studio space. In addition, he will confer with J. Arthur Rank, British film industry leader, on the affairs of Gaumont-British, in which both 20th-Fox and Loew's hold large interests through the United American Investment Corp., which in turn owns considerable stock in the Metropolis and Bradford Trust Co., Ltd., holding company of Gaumont-British.

Larry Kent, executive assistant to Skouras, is scheduled to leave for London soon. Length of his stay abroad is undetermined.

Honor B.&K. Servicemen

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—More than 2,000 employees and members of their families took part in the dedication of the Balaban and Katz "Honor Roll" of 325 company servicemen and women at a dinner and dance at the Hotel Stevens at the weekend, sponsored by the employees club, inactive for three years.

Rank Is First British International Distributor

(*Continued from page* 1)

which he had contemplated originally, Kelly said that Eagle-Lion will have 32 exchanges of its own in the United States and Canada. It will release about 15 pictures annually, about half of which will be made in Hollywood and the remainder selected from British-made product sponsored by Rank, Kelly said.

Asked whether it was believed possible, in view of current manpower, business space and equipment shortages, to set up an exchange system in wartime, Kelly answered by displaying a freshly opened cable from Rank with the following underlined:

"Our future slogan is: 'The impossible we do at once; miracles take a little longer.'"

Kelly added that he expected Eagle-Lion's distribution organizaion for the entire Western hemisphere to "be 80 per cent complete in eight months." That includes the establishment of its own exchanges in key spots throughout Central and South America, he said.

In addition to the Western hemisphere, Kelly's territory will include the Far East when its markets are reopened. E. T. (Teddy) Carr, he said, will head Eagle-Lion's operations in the rest of the world, including Great Britain. There it will be, in effect, in competition with Rank's General Film Distributors. The latter will continue to handle Universal product and Rank's British product not selected for distribution by Eagle-Lion, it was stated. Rank holds a 25 per cent interest in Universal and is a member of that company's board of directors.

"It is felt that 15 quality pictures annually will support a distribution system here," Kelly said. "At the outset we will have the Technicolor production, 'Colonel Blimp'; 'Henry V,' based on Shakespeare's play, and Noel Coward's 'This Happy Breed', all completed. Nearing completion or in production we have 'Blithe Spirit', 'Caesar and Cleopatra', with Vivien Leigh and Claude Rains, and 'Canterbury Tales', a Michael Powell-Emeric Pressburger production."

Further following the United Artists' pattern, Eagle-Lion will make distribution deals with independent producers in Hollywood. Partnership contract forms for such deals have been prepared, he said, and while Eagle-Lion will not engage in production itself, it is not prevented from financing its associated producers.

Questioned about reports linking the names of several well known home office sales executives with the new company, Kelly said that "no overtures of that kind have been made yet—I just opened the office last Saturday."

Kelly said the only instances in which the physical distribution facilities of an established company would be utilized by Eagle-Lion would be in localities in which it was first found impossible, because of wartime conditions, to open its own exchanges. He said that offers to make use of such facilities had been received from several major companies "friendly to" Rank's theatre companies in Britain.

Kelly reported that a delegation of officials of Allied States Exhibitors Association had called on him in New York within the past few days to discuss Eagle-Lion's plans and product.

Hays Returns, Sees More Quality Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

to increase and not decrease the production of high-quality pictures for civilian entertainment regardless of the emergency. This is being done. It goes on in addition to providing motion pictures for the Armed Forces on all fronts, on land and sea, and for the people of the occupied countries—films going in almost as soon as the troops.

"It is also the industry's job," Hays continued, "to use its skills for the production of training films needed for the Government. All this is being done with no let-down and with the improvement of regular essential film service, in spite of priority restrictions, rationing and other difficulties."

$18,837 for 'Children'

BUFFALO, Feb. 15. — Grossing $18,837 in a week at the Lafayette Theatre, "Where Are Your Children?", accompanied by "Spotlight Scandals" also broke that theatre's alltime Sunday record with a $4,901 take, playing to 10,113 customers, compared to the 10,104 which attended on a Sunday during the "Hit the Ice" run, according to Harry L. Berkson of Monogram here.

Percentage Suit Trial Is Extended

(*Continued from page* 1)

from the records of the theatres and the company's office records. Among the evidence entered was a theatre daily statement on which was marked: "Private, actual report. Payment to checker": "x" dollars. Office records on which the statement was entered bore no corresponding markings but included an entry identified as "advertising" in the same amount as the theatre's entry identified as "payment to checker."

Evidence also showed that double rolls of tickets had been used. Receipts from the extra series were not reported to distributors, the records showed, although they appeared on theatre reports.

Ask $500,000 for Arthur Lee Death

An action has been started in New York Supreme Court against Pan-American Airways for alleged negligence in the death of Arthur Lee, who headed Artlee Pictures, as a result of the Clipper ship disaster in the Togas River, Lisbon, Portugal, last year.

Action was started for Mary Lee, widow, and Elizabeth and William Lee, children, by Fitelson and Mayers, attorneys, seeking $500,000 damages.

3 FP-C Servicemen Meet in Germany

Toronto, Feb. 15. — Three former employes of Famous Players Canadian Corp. have been re-united in a prison camp in Germany. Two of them, Jack Armstrong of the Royal Theatre, Guelph, and Lloyd Christmas of Hamilton, Ont., were assigned to a bomber before a raid into Germany and did not know of the presence of the other until just before the flight. The bomber was forced down and both parachuted to safety, but were captured.

Joseph Loree, also from the Royal, crashed on the Italian front and escaped, but was recaptured. Sent to Germany, he arrived at a prison camp —to be welcomed by Armstrong and Christmas.

Freeman Lists 19 New Para. Pictures

(*Continued from page* 1)

cendiary Blonde," in Technicolor, with Betty Hutton; "The Road to Utopia," with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour; "The Hitler Gang"; "Going My Way," with Bing Crosby and Rise Stevens; "Rainbow Island," in Technicolor, with Dorothy Lamour; "You Can't Ration Love"; "And the Angels Sing," with Dorothy Lamour, Fred MacMurray and Betty Hutton; "Hail the Conquering Hero," a Preston Sturges comedy, with Eddie Bracken; "The Man in Half Moon Street"; "Double Indemnity," with Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck and Edgard G. Robinson; and "The Hour Before the Dawn," starring Franchot Tone and Veronica Lake.

In preparation are an untitled Mark Sandrich Technicolor production featuring Bing Crosby, Betty Hutton and Sonny Tufts; the Henry Bellamann book, "Victoria Grandolet"; a new version of the operetta, "The Count of Luxembourg," for Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour; and "I Love a Soldier," to star Paulette Goddard and Sonny Tufts.

Tradeshowing of 4th Paramount Block Set

Paramount's fourth block for 1943-44 will be trade-shown in all exchange centers on Thursday, Feb. 24, and Friday, Feb. 25, according to Neil F. Agnew, general sales manager.

"The Hour Before the Dawn" and "The Navy Way" will be shown on Feb. 24, and "Going My Way" and "You Can't Ration Love," on Feb. 25, except in New York, where "You Can't Ration Love" will be shown on Feb. 24. "Going My Way" will be shown at the Normandie in New York, while the other three will be shown at the 20th Century-Fox New York exchange.

'Heart' Screening

Twentieth-Fox's "The Purple Heart" will be trade-shown Wednesday, Feb. 23, according to Tom Connors, in charge of distribution. Screenings will be held in company exchanges, except in Portland, Ore., and St. Louis, where the picture will be shown in outside projection rooms.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 34 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1944 TEN CENTS

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Films' Aid Put 4th Loan Over Top: Gamble

Reveals Total Sales of $14,191,000,000 Made

Theodore Gamble, chairman of the War Finance division of the U. S. Treasury, yesterday paid tribute to the film industry for its "invaluable" aid in helping roll up "unprecedented 'E' bond sales," in a telegram to Charles Skouras, national industry chairman of the 4th War Loan drive.



Ted Gamble

Gamble stated that "you and all those associated with you can be very proud," as he revealed that total sales of $14,191,000,000 have been reported so far in the campaign

(*Continued on page* 14)

State Dep't Granted Funds for Pictures

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Reorganization of the State Department, including the setting up of a new motion picture section geared for postwar operations, will cost an additional $500,000, it was disclosed here today by the House Appropriations Committee in reporting the Department's $44,234,500 appropriation for 1944-45.

Besides this additional fund, which will be incorporated in the measure before final enactment, the Committee gave the Department slightly more than its estimates for its regular work,

(*Continued on page* 14)

Theatres Face New Heating Oil Crisis

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Eastern exhibitors who heat their theatres with oil were given a hint of an impending new crisis in the fuel situation tonight, when Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes, issued an order further restricting heating oil deliveries.

Under the order consumers using

(*Continued on page* 14)

Child Attendance Ban Extended to All Camden County

CAMDEN, N. J., Feb. 16.—Camden's new prohibition against theatre attendance at any time by unaccompanied children under 14 will not only remain in effect despite the plea of exhibitors but has been extended to all of Camden County, hitting nearly as many houses in the neighboring towns as the 24 that are affected here.

County Prosecutor Gene Mariano, whose drastic order of Monday night, invoking a 33-year-old law, was reported today in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, has mailed notices to chiefs of police and public safety directors in each town telling them immediately to enforce the ban as well as the existing curfew law that requires children under 16 to get off the streets by 10 p. m.

Representatives of local theatres, including manager Joseph E. Murdoch

(*Continued on page* 14)

Set Film Red Cross Plans February 24

Opening gun in the motion picture theatres' Red Cross Drive will be fired next Thursday morning in the Hotel Astor here at a breakfast to be attended by representatives from exhibition, distribution and other branches of the industry, it was announced by Joseph Bernhard, national chairman of the motion picture division of the 1944 Red Cross campaign, following a meeting yesterday.

Methods of conducting the drive within the industry as a whole as well as by theatres will be explained. The

(*Continued on page* 14)

Tom Clark to Confer With Coast Owners

Los Angeles, Feb. 16.—Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark, now conferring with independents in Dallas on the proposed new consent decree, will come here for similar conferences with exhibitors of Southern California. From here he will travel to San Francisco to talk with exhibitors of the Pacific Northwest.

Paramount Sales Up 60% on Third Block, Agnew Discloses

Reflecting an accelerated pace of selling and an approximate 60 per cent increase in business, 4,703 independent contracts exclusive of circuit deals have been signed for the company's third block of five 1943-44 features season after five weeks of selling, against 2,787 signed during a similar period for the third block of the 1942-43 season, according to figures made available yesterday to MOTION PICTURE DAILY by Neil Agnew, general sales manager.



Neil Agnew

Sales of this season's third block are running apace with those of the

(*Continued on page* 14)

World War II Turns Some Circuits Into Public Popcorn Processors

Kansas City, Feb. 16.—Governmental ceilings and resultant curtailments have had many strange influences on the normal process of film exhibition, as they have had on just about every other line of American endeavor. But none as strange as the processing of popcorn for theatre patrons to which many Midwest circuit owners have turned.

Seems that popcorn supplies for exhibitors have been in a precarious condition since the ceilings for cob and for processed corn went on in December causing many growers to withhold their corn, hoping for a relaxation of the ceiling before the corn spoils. A few dealers are getting processed corn but in barely enough volume to supply regular customers. Some processors are reported entirely out of the market at present.

There are circuits, however, which have set up their own processing plants, and are said to be getting corn from growers in sufficient quantities to keep their theatre stands operating.

Terms for N.Y. Branches Same For All of U.S.

Will Permit Increases by Overtime Payments

Some 3,000 "backroom" workers in all of the majors' branches in the 31 exchange centers will receive the same terms, permitting increased earning opportunity, as those received by 350 such employes in New York exchanges last week after strike prevention conferences between IATSE officials and company representatives. The terms provide for a five-day 40-hour week with an extra four hours permitted on Saturdays at overtime rates.

Members of IATSE Local B-45, representing "backroom" employes in Chicago, will meet there tonight to consider the acceptance of the New York formula, after considering a similar strike call. Recent decisions of exchange workers in Detroit and Seattle to call off strikes pending action by IATSE officials are also seen as falling in line with the New York

(*Continued on page* 14)

PRC Franchise Change in Sight

Modifications of Producers Releasing Corp. franchise provisions have been agreed upon between the franchise holders' committee and company representatives, it was learned here yesterday.

The modifications, together with recommendations from Leon Fromkess, PRC vice-president in charge of production; Leo J. McCarthy, general sales manager, and George Bonwick, treasurer, are subject to approval by the PRC board of directors, which will meet today or tomorrow to act on them.

One of the disputed franchise

(*Continued on page* 14)

'Hays Office', by Moley, Out in Fall

Raymond Moley's new book, "The Hays Office," in preparation for years, will be published in the Fall by the Bobbs-Merrill Co., which financed the 100,000-word document, which the author prepared with the cooperation of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America.

Moley told MOTION PICTURE DAILY

(*Continued on page* 14)

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 16

ADOLPH ZUKOR and Mrs. Zukor have arrived here after a vacation in Arizona.

•

Monogram has signed Jeffrey Bernerd to produce two films for its 1944-45 program. The first, "The Right to Live," starring Gale Storm and directed by William Nigh, will be followed with "They Shall Have Faith."

•

The Armed Forces Radio Service has appointed Capt. T. A. McKnight as liaison officer in charge of the overseas broadcast of the principal events of the Academy awards banquet on March 2.

•

Ted Richmond, independent producer, has been signed to a producer contract by Columbia. His first will be "Meet Miss Bobby Socks," a musical.

•

"The Black Widow," an original screen story, will be filmed by Monogram with Lindsley Parsons producing.

•

Universal has given Director Felix Feist an associate producership.

Astra Sues Selznick, Others for $250,000

Astra Pictures yesterday filed suit here for $250,000 damages against David O. Selznick, Daniel T. O'Shea, Ernest L. Scanlon and Raymond A. Klune, alleging breach of contract.

The complaint alleges that the defendants failed to deliver certain old films belonging to them, for which Astra had contracted for distribution in both 16mm and 35mm.

The complainant further alleges that more than a reasonable time has elapsed for delivery of the films and that it has offered to make payment with respect to Astra's part of the contract but that the offer was refused.

Schnitzer on Vacation

Edward Schnitzer, United Artists Western division sales manager, left yesterday for an extended vacation in Florida due to his health. His duties at the U. A. home office have been taken over by J. J. Unger, who recently joined the company. Upon his return from Florida, Schnitzer will be given a new assignment at the home office.

SMPE to See 'Magazine'

"Army-Navy Screen Magazine," a 15-minute film for U. S. service men abroad, will be shown in the Hotel Pennsylvania here Feb. 23 at a meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Atlantic Coast Section, Chairman C. R. Keith reported yesterday.

Personal Mention

JOHN OJERHOLM of Paramount's Olympic Laboratories, London, was scheduled to leave for England last night after a visit of several months here.

•

JOHN ELKINS of Famous Players' Kerrisdale Theatre, Vancouver, was married last week to NESTA HUGH of that city.

•

WOLFE COHEN, Canadian general manager for Warner Bros., has returned to his Toronto office after being on the sick list.

•

L. M. DEVANEY, Canadian general manager for RKO, returned recently to his Toronto office after a tour of RKO branches.

•

LARRY LYON of the Cincinnati Variety Club, is in Christ Hospital, Cincinnati, recovering from an appendectomy.

•

WILLIAM C. HICKS, circuit operator in Baltimore, has returned from Florida.

•

RODNEY COLLIER, manager of the Stanley, Baltimore, has recovered from the grippe.

•

SAMUEL H. MEINHOLD, veteran Loew district manager here, observed his 76th birthday Tuesday.

•

WILLIAM KEAGAN, general manager of the Hunt circuit, New Jersey, is ill in Mercer Hospital, Trenton.

•

ARTHUR GOTTLIEB, head of Du-Art Film Laboratories, left here last night for Toronto.

•

ARTHUR LYONS, co-partner of Producers Artist Corp., is in town from Hollywood.

•

PAUL NATHANSON, here on a brief visit, will return to Toronto today.

•

HASKELL M. MASTERS has deferred his return to Toronto until tomorrow.

WALTER WANGER, producer, returned to Hollywood yesterday from a two-week vacation in New York.

•

MANNY BROWN, Paramount's Buffalo branch manager, is in Binghamton this week for conferences with TOM WALSH of the Comerford circuit.

•

LARRY NEW, manager of Famous Players' Grandview Theatre in Vancouver before joining the Navy, is now with the motion picture section in Halifax.

•

WILLIAM ROSENOW, former Rochester salesman, is now an apprentice seaman at the U. S. Naval Training Station at Sampson, N. Y.

•

BERNARD LEVY, manager of Proven Pictures, Hartford, visited Boston this week.

•

MILTON SMITH, 20th-Fox Syracuse salesman, is ill in Jewish Memorial Hospital here.

•

W. C. ROWELL, Rochester salesman for 20th-Fox, visited Buffalo this week.

•

SAM SLOTNIK and RUBE CANTOR, Syracuse exhibitors, visited United Artists' exchange in Buffalo this week.

•

EDWARD McEVOY of Universal was a New Haven visitor for several days from New York.

•

HARRY F. SHAW, Loew's Poli division manager, was here for a special meeting of Loew managers this week.

•

ED WALL, district exploitation manager for Paramount, is in Buffalo this week.

•

J. J. MILSTEIN is in town from Hollywood for several weeks.

•

IRA COHN, 20th-Fox Buffalo branch manager, was in Syracuse yesterday.

Saulkins' Testimony On Receipts Admitted

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Judge Michael Igoe late today authorized clearance for Richard Saulkins, former Jackson Park Theatre manager, to introduce tomorrow comparative receipts of opposition defendant theatres as a means of establishing damages claimed in the Jackson Park anti-trust suit. Saulkins has already been on the stand for two days in the trial here.

Clyde Eckhardt, Los Angeles exchange manager, has arrived to testify for 20th-Fox.

Katz Shifted to Studio

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Maurice Bergman, Eastern advertising and publicity manager for Universal, announced here last night that Ben Katz, Chicago Universal publicist, will be transferred to the studio promotion department, effective March 1.

Auditor Testifies To Loew's Errors

BOSTON, Feb. 16.—Charles Kelly, an auditor employed by the eight major companies, was on the stand all day today in the trial of the Consolidateds against E. M. Loew and, although subjected to rigid cross examination, failed to be shaken in his testimony that he had found certain errors on which the case is based.

Kelly was still on the stand when the case closed for the day, to resume tomorrow morning. Indications are that the case will continue into next week unless some unexpected event arises.

Miss Morris Ad Writer

Virginia Morris, who will join 20th Century-Fox's advertising department on Feb. 28, is an advertising copywriter at United Artists, not a feature publicity writer, as stated yesterday.

Two Awards, One Complaint Filed

A new clearance complaint has been filed at New York, a consent award entered at Boston and an award handed down in Buffalo, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

At the New York tribunal, M. and M. Amusement Co., operating the Elgin, 171 Eighth Ave., New York City, filed a clearance complaint against 20th-Fox, Warners and RKO. The complaint alleges that the present clearance granted to the Eighth Street Playhouse and the Art Theatre is unreasonable as to time and area. Plaintiff seeks complete elimination of all clearance.

Award by Stipulation

A consent award by stipulation was entered at the Boston tribunal in the complaint of Montello Amusement Co., operating the Park, Brockton, Mass., against the five decree companies. The stipulation states that the complaint against Paramount is dismissed. Further, that the maximum clearance which may be granted by the other consenting companies to the first-run theatres in Brockton (Brockton, Rialto and Colonial theatres) over the Park in that part of Brockton known as Montello, shall be 45 days as long as the Park plays RKO, Loew's, 20th-Fox and Warner product second-run in Brockton. "Nothing herein contained," it added, "shall be deemed to grant the complainant's theatre any right to any specific-run." Costs were assessed equally to all parties concerned.

At Buffalo, William E. Barrett, arbitrator, in the clearance complaint of Basil Bros., operators of the La Salle, Niagara Falls, against the five major distributors, ruled that existing clearance of 35 days, and in some cases 30 days, between Cataract Theatre Corp., and Buffalo Theatres, Inc., on the one hand and the La Salle Theatre on the other is unreasonable, and that hereafter clearance over the La Salle shall be not more than 17 days after end of first-run in Niagara Falls.

Broidy Lines Up Second Mono. Block

Second block of eight films on Monogram's 1943-44 program was announced here yesterday by Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager.

In the group are: "Where Are Your Children?" "Hot Rhythm," "Million Dollar Kid," "Voodoo Man," "Detective Kitty O'Day," "Murder in the Fun House" and "Follow the Leader."

Luncheon for Johnston And Steve Broidy

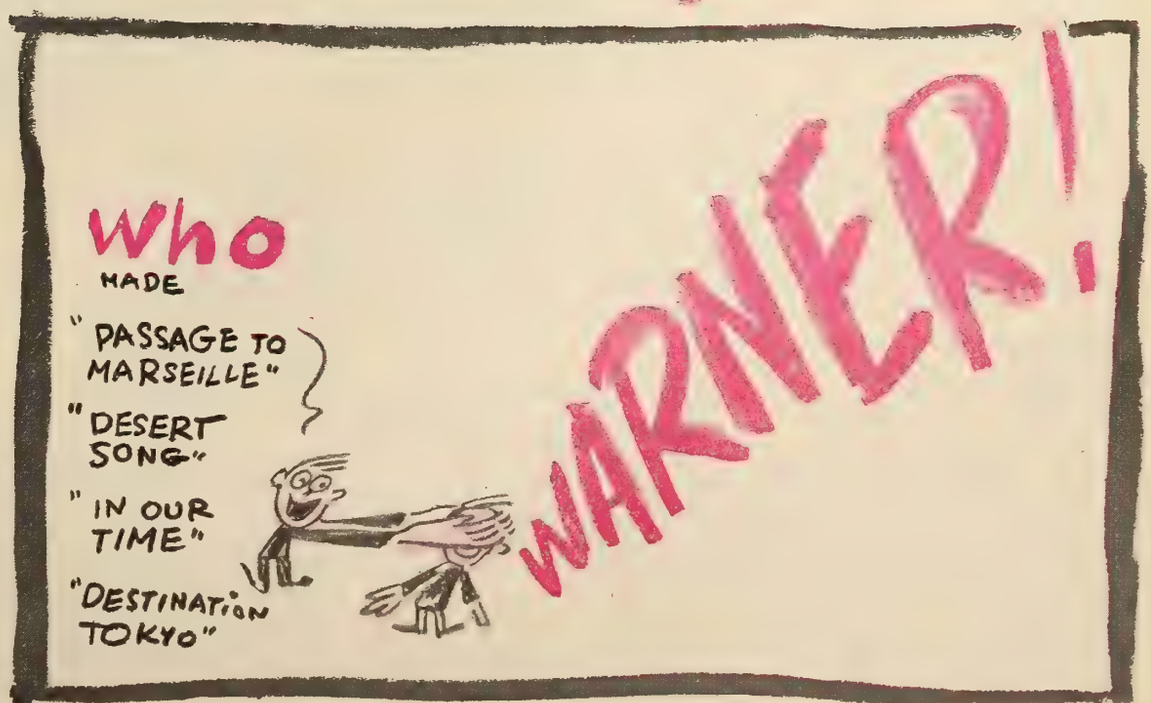
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 16.—W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram, and Samuel Broidy, general sales manager, will be feted by local independent exhibitors at a luncheon to be held Feb. 23 at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel. David Barrist, independent circuit operator, heads the sponsoring committee. "Lady, Let's Dance" will be screened.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign. single copies, 10c.

YESTERDAY

THE FIRST DAY OF
HUMPHREY BOGART
in "PASSAGE to MARSEILLE"

the N.Y. Hollywood
BEAT "This is
the Army"



1BER! March 15th Deadline for Hundred Bond Reports to State Chairmen!

Jack L. Warner, *Executive Producer*

'Children', 'Escape' Are Big in Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 16.—Average bills sent box office receipts down to normalcy this week and indications are for a comparatively quiet week ahead. Two surprises here are "Where Are Your Children?" at the Trans-Lux and "None Shall Escape" at the Majestic. Both set new records for those houses.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 16:

"What a Woman!" (Col.)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $8,500).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(2,900) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $23,500).
"Riding High" (Para.)
"Find the Blackmailer" (WB)
METROPOLITAN—(4,367) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $23,500).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
MAJESTIC — (1,600) (28c-35c-44c-55c) 7 days, third week. Gross: $9,000. (Average, $6,000).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
NORMANDIE—(1,300) (28c-35c-44c-55c) 7 days, third week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $6,000).
"North Star" (RKO)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
KEITH MEMORIAL — (2,900) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days, second week. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $20,500).
"The Heat's On" (Col.)
RKO BOSTON—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage show with Shep Fields orchestra. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $23,500).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Clementine" (Rep.)
PARAMOUNT — (1,700) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days, second week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,500).
"Where Are Your Children" (Mono.)
TRANS LUX—(900) (28c-44c-65c). Gross: $11,000. (Average: $7,000).

'Around World' Wins Balt.; Snow Hurts

BALTIMORE, Feb. 16.—New pictures here were handicapped by a heavy snow storm. However, weekend crowds helped relieve the situation. "Around the World," bolstered by a stage show at the Hippodrome, took first place with an easy $18,000, while "Cry Havoc" rated next with $16,500 at the Century.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 17:

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $16,500).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(2,406) (30c-35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (28c-35c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,700).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-50c-55c and 60c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $16,900).
"Around the World" (RKO)
HIPPODROME—(2,205) (28c-30c-45c-55c-66c) 7 days. Stage show: Jan Savitt and orchestra. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $16,800).
"The Sultan's Daughter" (Mono.)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,900).
"The Leopard Man" (RKO)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,500).

Lee, Schaefer in Conn.

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 16.—Joseph Lee of 20th-Fox's home office is substituting as manager of the local exchange in the absence of Ben Simon, who is recuperating from an operation. Murray Schaefer, also of the New York office, is temporarily replacing Earl Wright, 20th-Fox salesman here, who is confined to his home with a broken ankle.

Review

"See Here, Private Hargrove"

(M-G-M)

Hollywood, Feb. 16

ROBERT WALKER, whose boyishness and enthusiasm registered its first agreeable impression in "Bataan," repeats in "See Here, Private Hargrove," comedy of a rookie drawn from the well-known book of actual experience.

The attraction is amusing in scattered manner, the scatterings generating from episodes skimpily tied together and never developing substantial total weight. Spreading what turned up in the script over 100 minutes of playing time results in placing a burden on story and characters which they succeed in managing only partially.

The story tells how the Army absorbs its inducted men and whips the raw material into the precisions of a fighting machine. This serious underlying theme, however, is developed in comedy terms. Hargrove starts off by being the most unmanageable of the lot. Five days in the Army bring him as many days of K.P. He becomes the champion polisher of garbage cans, is persuaded by Keenan Wynn to drop the hard road for the relative softnesses of a public relations job. His jams are frequent and regular, but in the final analysis he is moulded, as are the others, into a tough-fibred, well-endowed soldier-of-the-line heading overseas alongside his buddies of the basic training days. More or less casually interspersed is a pleasant and romantic situation with attractive Donna Reed.

"See Here, Private Hargrove" definitely has its moments. When they arrive, they are funny with a pronounced drift toward the hilarious. The regret is those moments are infrequent and the resultant stretches in between long and barren.

Walker gets able support, chiefly from Wynn, his conniving soldier-mate, and Chill Wills as the usual tough top sergeant. Robert Benchley does one of his established pieces of business which carries the impression of having been forced into the proceedings in the cause of added laughs. Bob Crosby does a solo of "In My Arms," thereby adding another marquee name of some value.

Direction by Wesley Ruggles must be viewed in direct ratio to the availabilities of the material; he did well with the possibilities handed him in the script by Harry Krunitz. George Haight produced.

Running time, 100 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

RED KANN.

**"G" denotes general classification.*

WB Sets Talent on 7 Network Shows

Warner talent has been set for this week and next on seven network appearances on Coast-to-Coast programs.

Ida Lupino did an "In Our Time" role on the Frank Sinatra program last night over CBS; tonight Dane Clark, of "Destination Tokyo," will appear on the CBS 'Suspense' program; Irene Manning will sing tunes from "The Desert Song" on 'Stars Over Hollywood' on CBS Saturday; Alexis Smith of "The Adventures of Mark Twain" will go on Jack Carson's CBS program next Wednesday night; Alan Hale of "Destination Tokyo" will appear on the Joan Davis show over NBC on Feb. 24, and Sydney Greenstreet of "Passage to Marseille" will appear the same night on the Abbott & Costello program over NBC.

31 Gov't Shorts from Warner Bros. in 1943

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—Warners made 31 special shorts last year at the behest of Washington agencies, including the Office of War Information, War Production Board and Army and Navy, according to executive producer Jack L. Warner.

Included were training films, subjects supporting bond drives and other domestic war measures, and pictures for release as the United Nations invade Europe.

Snow Storm Hits Indianapolis Hard

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 16. — Snow storms and bitter cold are cutting deeply into receipts here this week. "The Desert Song" and "Rookies in Burma" dualed at the Indiana are best, with an anticipated $10,500. "Beautiful but Broke" and "Lost Angel" at Loew's will gross $10,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 17:

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"Ghost Ship" (RKO)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $11,000).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $11,500).
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Mine Sweeper" (Para.)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, moveover from the Indiana. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $5,000).

Neidig Named President

LEBANON, Pa., Feb. 16.—John H. Neidig has been elected president of the IATSE local here. Other officers named include Donald Anspach, vice-president; Albert Spayd, recording secretary; George Coe, financial secretary; Raymond E. Hurst, treasurer; Norman C. Waters, business agent, and Charles E. Kruger, executive board member.

Added Films for War Areas Sought

Washington, Feb. 16.—President Roosevelt has asked Congress for $150,000,000 to finance community facilities in areas where the influx of war workers has taxed facilities beyond capacity. Motion pictures are a part of this U. S. community program.

The money requested represents the balance between $350,000,000 already appropriated and $500,000,000 authorized in a law under which the Government has been financing such facilities in war communities.

Bogart Finds Films Essential War Aid

Humphrey Bogart, back in Hollywood with Mrs. Bogart after a 35,000-mile entertainment tour of Italy and North Africa, reiterated the assertion made by several others returning from war fronts that "motion pictures rate with food and mail from home as vital elements to morale in combat areas," the War Activities Committee disclosed here yesterday. His trip was arranged by the Hollywood Victory Committee and USO-Camp Shows, Inc.

"In Italy," Bogart stated, "we played most shows within three or four miles from the front. There we found soldiers seeing 16mm films during brief rest periods from active fighting. Every special service officer we talked to stressed the vital function motion pictures play in maintaining morale. They also stressed the importance of men in forward areas getting the best and latest pictures."

The North African area, he reported, seems amply supplied with new, first-class films.

Police Head Against Washington Curfew

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. — Curfews were held to be no solution to juvenile delinquency and local theatremen were complimented for their part in fighting the juvenile problem by Captain Rhoda B. Milliken, head of the Washington women's police force, in an address at the Variety Club luncheon at Hotel Willard here this week.

"Restricting hours of adolescents," said Capt. Milliken, "is no answer for the neglect of parents in keeping a watchful eye over children. It would not be good to deprive youngsters of their pleasures, and the theatremen of Washington have done a lot to make it possible for children to find relaxation under pleasant surroundings." She cited the value of matinees and special performances for youngsters.

Other guests at the luncheon were Grace Tully, personal secretary to President Roosevelt, and Father Gilbert V. Hartke of Catholic University. Carter Barron was toastmaster.

Artkino Film Opens Soon

Opening date for Artkino's "No Greater Love", in English, has been set for Feb. 24, at the Victoria Theatre, Broadway. A private premiere on Feb. 23 will be sponsored by the American Women's Voluntary Services.



The Most Beautiful Thing in the World
of Motion Pictures
In Technicolor
From Paramount


Paramount's
"Lady in


the Dark"
In Technicolor

The Girl of the Moment

With the Loves of the Year

In the Picture of the Century

Ginger Rogers
Ray Milland
Warner Baxter
Jon Hall in

"Lady in the Dark"



IN TECHNICOLOR

A MITCHELL LEISEN PRODUCTION

With Mischa Auer
and Hundreds of Others

B. G. DeSYLVA, Executive Producer

From the Sensationally Successful Stage Musical by Moss Hart—With Music by Kurt Weill and Lyrics by Ira Gershwin—Screen Play by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

Directed by MITCHELL LEISEN

Paramount
Presents It First At
HOLLYWOOD AND
LOS ANGELES
PARAMOUNT THEATRES
FEB. 9th

NEW YORK
PARAMOUNT THEATRE
FEB. 22nd

At Regular
Admission Pri...

Flash!

FIRST 4 DAYS OF LOS ANGELES AND HOLLYWOOD WORLD PREMIERE WERE ACTUALLY 45% OVER PREVIOUS ALL-TIME RECORD-HOLDER, "STAR SPANGLED RHYTHM" . . . AND HERE ARE THE FIRST TERRIFIC REVIEWS OF

"Lady in the Dark"

"An opulent feast...A magnificent motion picture . . . Possibly the most beautiful motion picture ever made . . . A masterpiece of production...quality in the best meaning of the word . . . All-around excellence."—*Hollywood Reporter*

"A box-office smash; color, settings, photography rate raves...an entertainment feast . . . A tremendous attraction. Costumes will have the women in ecstacies. Never has anything like it been seen on the screen."—*Film Daily*

MORE...MORE...MORE...

"Super entertainment . . . breath-taking beauty and down-to-earth fun . . . lavishly produced in Technicolor."—*Boxoffice*

"The most magnificent pictorial fashion show of all time . . . a visual masterpiece."
—*Lowell E. Redelings, L. A. Citizen News*

"Paramount empties a veritable jewel case of gorgeous sets and costumes upon the screen. Technicolor camera work is one of the outstanding triumphs of the film. The most sumptuous Technicolor extravaganza ever photographed."
—*Harrison Carroll, L. A. Herald-Express*

"Lady in the Dark"

"Arrived in a riot of color and excitement . . . Never before or since has such a Technicolorful fashion show been paraded across the screen . . . It is an eye-filling extravaganza."—*Dorothy Manners, L. A. Examiner*

"A show to knock the eye out. Hollywood has had its sumptuous, luxurious and opulent moments but this attraction nestles comfortably alongside the most extravagant . . . An overflowing cup of optical elegance . . . sets magnificent, Technicolor superb . . . in the big money division . . . breathtakingly beautiful."
—*Red Kann, M. P. Daily*

"Will be brightly illuminated at the pay-off windows. Hilarious comedy . . . brilliant satire, searching drama. Well nigh irresistible to all."—*Daily Variety*

"Loaded with tremendous appeal for women. Fabulous dream sequences to draw women customers literally 'out of this world'."—*Helen McNamara, M. P. Daily*

"Unique in the annals of the movies . . . A feature to put on any must list of events to be witnessed."—*Edwin Schallert, L. A. Times*

. . . AND THE TRADE SHOWING IS FEB. 28th!

Snow Slows Philadelphia; 'Lifeboat' Tops

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 16.—Heavy snows got the week off to a slow start in downtown houses, although business later held up fairly well; holdovers predominating. Of the new openings, "Lifeboat" looks very big, leading the field with an expected $26,500 at the Fox, plus $3,900 grossed on Sunday at the Earle for its dual showing that day. Among the holdovers, "The Desert Song" holds strong at the Mastbaum, with $21,700 in sight for its second week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 16-18:

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
ALDINE—(900) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $10,300).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $3,500).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $19,000).
"The Heat's On" (Col.) (6 days)
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville including Tony Pastor's orchestra, Virginia Maxey, Johnny Morris, James Barton and The Reddingtons. Gross: $23,300. (Average: $22,000).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $17,800).
"Johnny Come Lately" (UA)
KARLTON — (1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,500).
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
KEITH'S — (2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $5,000).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
MASTBAUM—(4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,700. (Average: $22,000).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
STANLEY—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $18,300).
"Jack London" (UA)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,000).

'Ali Baba' Overcomes Providence Weather

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 16.—"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" opened strong at the RKO-Albee here and was headed for $17,000. "What a Woman!" grossed $11,500 at the Strand and was held over. Elsewhere business was only fair, with a heavy snowstorm a potent factor.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 17:

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $12,900).
"What a Woman!" (Col.)
"The Racket Man" (Col.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $10,000).
"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,500).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Loew's State. Gross: $4,600. (Average: $3,900).
"Mexicali Rose" (Rep.)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On the stage: Sally, Jack & Mascot, Joyner & Foster, Tom Barry, Great Dexter, Eileen Ford, Olive White. Gross: $7,200. (Average: $6,500).
"What a Man!" (Mono.)
METROPOLITAN—(3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Jimmy Lunceford's Orchestra, Berry Brothers. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $8,000).

Cincinnati Is Off In Zero Weather

CINCINNATI, Feb. 16.—A cold wave caused a drop in attendance here, although "Lifeboat" is sailing toward an estimated $15,000 at the RKO Palace, and "Beautiful but Broke" should do around $24,000 with a stage show at the RKO Albee.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 16-19:

"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: D'Artgea's All-Girl orchestra, Beatrice Kay, Grace McDonald and Watson Sisters. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 3rd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $10,000).
"Million Dollar Kid" (Mono.)
"Nabonga" (PRC)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,300. (Average: $1,400).
"Always a Bridesmaid" (Univ.)
"Pride of the Plains" (Rep.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $700. (Average: $800).
"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $9,500).
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,000).
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.)
"Spider Woman" (Univ.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,200).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Palace. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,000).

'Uninvited' Draws $25,000 in Capital

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. — Paramount's "The Uninvited" is giving Loew's Capitol a boost with $25,000 for the first week, aided by Henny Youngman and the Murtagh Sisters on the stage. Another top grosser is "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" which, in its second week at Warner's Earle, is headed for $19,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 17:

"The Uninvited" (Para.)
LOEW'S CAPITOL—(3,434) (28c-39c-44c-66c) 7 days. On stage: Henny Youngman, Murtah Sisters. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S COLUMBIA—(1,234) (30c-50c) 7 days, 3rd downtown week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $7,000).
"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
WARNER'S EARLE—(2,210) (30c-40c-50c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. On stage: Oxford Boys. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $18,800).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
RKO-KEITH'S—(1,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days, 3rd downtown week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,800).
"The Frisco Kid" (WB)
WARNER'S METROPOLITAN — (1,600) (30c-44c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $6,900).

Monogram Recalls 'Jane Eyre' Prints

Monogram has instructed its branch offices to withdraw from circulation all prints of "Jane Eyre," released by that company about ten years ago.

The company first intended to reissue the film but felt "it would be unethical to do so at this time since 20th-Fox has recently released the new version of the Charlotte Bronte classic," according to a Monogram statement issued from the home office here yesterday.

Tronolone's 40th Year in Business

Nick Tronolone, vice-president, director and general sales manager in charge of production of Pathe Laboratories, Inc., is observing his 40th year in the film business. He started in 1904 with Biograph and subsequently was with Kinemacolor, Edison Studios, Brulatour's Paragon Laboratories, Consolidated Film, and then had his own laboratory, from which he joined Pathe in 1937.

During World War I, Tronolone joined the armed forces and was appointed President Wilson's personal photographer, accompanying the President throughout Europe.

Kansas City Houses Rate 'Seabees' Big

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 16.—Several heavy snow storms and below zero weather cut deeply into suburban house grosses here as well as some downtowns. "The Fighting Seabees" ignored the weather to roll up terrific grosses, getting about $24,000 for the trio.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 16-17:

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $5,500).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
"Find the Blackmailer" (WB)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Someone to Remember" (Rep.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Henry Busse revue on stage. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,400).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $5,600).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $1,450).

'Dull Moment', Show Get $18,600 in Omaha

OMAHA, Feb. 16.—The Ink Spots on the stage at the Orpheum helped boost "Never a Dull Moment" to $18,600. Despite Omaha's first real sample of winter grosses held up well.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 17:

"What a Woman!" (Col.)
"Find the Blackmailer" (WB)
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (40c-55c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,100. (Average: $5,500).
"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
"Hi 'Ya Sailor" (Univ.)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week for "Lassie" on a moveover from Paramount. Gross: $9,100. (Average: $6,900).
"Never a Dull Moment" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $18,600. (Average: $14,900).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c). Gross: $8,900. (Average: $8,900)

Censors Cut Only Five

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 16.—Ohio censors ordered deletions in only five out of 129 films shown during January in Ohio. For the same month last year cuts were ordered in 13 out of 134.

Production Is Down to 40 in Work on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16. — Production dropped off slightly during the past week with five pictures finishing and only three new ones started, to bring the total on the stages to 40. The previous week saw five finished, eight started, 42 shooting. The production scene follows:

Columbia
Shooting: "Mr. Winkle Goes to War," "The Girl in the Case," "Pilebuck," "At Night We Dream," "Mission Thirty-six."

M-G-M
Shooting: "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "National Velvet," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross," "Dragon Seed."

Monogram
Shooting: "Detective Kitty O'Day."

Paramount
Shooting: "Practically Yours," "Bring On the Girls," "And Now Tomorrow," "Road to Utopia," "Incendiary Blonde."

PRC
Started: "Devil's Apprentice" with J. Carroll Naish, Ralph Morgan, Wanda McKay, Tala Birell, Terry Frost, Glenn Strange.
Shooting: "Guns of the Lawless," "Minstrel Man," "Dixie Showboat."

RKO-Radio
Shooting: "One Exciting Night," "Manhattan Serenade."

Republic
Started: "Silent Partner" with William Henry, Beverly Loyd, Ray Walker, Grant Withers.
Shooting: "Candlelights in Lisbon," "The Man from Brooklyn" (formerly "The Man from Frisco").
Finished: "Cowboy and the Senorita."

20th Century-Fox
Shooting: "The Keys of the Kingdom," "Sweet and Low-Down," "Wilson," "In the Meantime, Darling."

United Artists
Shooting: "The Hairy Ape" (Levey), "Song of the Open Road" (Rogers), "Sensations of 1944" (Stone).
Finished: "Since You Went Away" (Vanguard).

Universal
Started: "Slick Chicks" with Martha O'Driscoll, Noah Beery, Jr., Fuzzy Knight, David Bruce, Franklin Pangborn.
Shooting: "Pardon My Rhythm," "The Climax," "The Invisible Man's Revenge."
Finished: "Christmas Holiday."

Warners
Shooting: "Cinderella Jones," "Mr. Skeffington," "My Reputation," "Janie."
Finished: "Make Your Own Bed," "The Horn Blows at Midnight."

'Gung Ho!' Benefit

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Approximately $10,000 is expected to be raised for the Marine Corps League through the sale of tickets, priced up to $50 for a preview of "Gung Ho!" at the Palace Theatre Feb. 25. The benefit was arranged through Tom Gorman, district manager of RKO theatres, and Ben Katz, Chicago director of publicity for Universal.

Business Is Good In San Francisco; $24,900 for 'Curie'

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16.—Stellar attractions brought good business to first runs, two of the best showings being Paramount's $24,900 for "Madame Curie" and the Orpheum's $19,500 for "Flesh and Fantasy." Weather was good.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 17:

"Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $15,700. (Average: $10,000).
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
WARFIELD—(2,680) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $20,300).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $26,000).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $24,800. (Average: $23,500).
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $12,700).
"Desert Song" (WB)
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. (Moved over from Fox.) Gross: $11,000. (Average, $10,300)
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT—(2,740) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $24,900. (Average: $18,700).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"The Good Fellows" (Para.)
STATE—(2,306) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $11,000).

Hall Succeeds Doty

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 16.—Norwood Hall has succeeded Leo J. Doty, resigned, as office manager of the local United Artists Exchange.

Review

"Action in Arabia"

(RKO-Radio)

Hollywood, Feb. 16

WITH names like George Sanders, Virginia Bruce, Gene Lockhart, Robert Armstrong and H. B. Warner for billing purposes, showmen can expect to get more customer attention for this melodrama than the tip-off title suggests. In any event, it's a Sanders vehicle in the general style of the "Falcon" pictures he used to make, containing more action and less plausibility.

Sanders plays a New York newspaperman off duty in Damascus in those early war days when the Allies' Mediterranean life-line was in jeopardy. He discovers a plot by which Nazi agents intend to enlist the sympathies of the desert tribes and, with the aid of an American official, likewise off duty, thwarts the undertaking. The story, an original screenplay by Philip MacDonald and Herbert Biberman, is too complicated to tell without a camera.

Other players are Lenore Aubert, Alan Napier, Andre Charlot, Marcel Dalio, Robert Anderson, Jamiel Hasson, John Hamilton, Rafael Storm and Mike Ansaza. Production is by Maurice Geraghty, direction by Leonide Moguy. The action mentioned in the title consists mainly of fisticuffs, clouts over the head and a spurt of light rifle fire on the desert.

Running time, 75 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"G" denotes general classification.*

H. Watt Will Film 'Australia at War'

LONDON, Feb. 16. — Harry Watt, writer of the script for "Target for Tonight" and other films for the British Ministry of Information, left here today for New York en route to Australia to film "Australia at War" at the request of the Commonwealth government. In addition to "Target," Watt produced and directed "London Can Take It," and "Christmas Under Fire" with Quentin Reynolds.

'Lifeboat', Dualed Rides Out Storm

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 16.—Winter played a return engagement here this week and snow and near zero weather kept some fans at home. "Lifeboat" at the Fox leads the parade with $18,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 16:

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $10,500).
"Jack London" (UA)
"Hi Diddle Diddle" (UA)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $16,900).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"My Best Gal" (Rep.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $16,500).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Jeannie" (English Films)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c). Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,900).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Around the World" (RKO)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,000).
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
"Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (Univ.)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).

'Gang', 'Ali Baba' Lead in Toronto

TORONTO, Feb. 16. — "The Gang's All Here" at Shea's Theatre, with a prospective $16,300 and "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," heading for $14,700 at the Uptown Theatre, were top-grossers for the week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 17:

"Intermezzo" (Alliance)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,400. (Average: $3,900).
"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,600. (Average: $12,600).
"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $16,300. (Average: $12,300).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,800. (Average: $10,800).
"Wintertime" (20th-Fox) moveover
"Good Luck, Mr. Yates" (Col.)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $4,600. (Average: $4,600).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $14,700. (Average: $9,700).

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Feb. 16

"LADY in the Dark" broke the all-time opening day record at the Paramount Hollywood and Downtown theatres, exceeding by 28 percent the mark set by "Let's Face It." The box office recorded $2,062 more for the first day than "Let's Face It," the studio reported.

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George Waggoner's option was picked up by Universal just as he put "The Climax" before the cameras with Susanna Foster singing several well-known numbers . . . William Perlberg has assigned Fritz Lang to direct "Where De We Go from Here?" an original comedy scheduled for Spring production at 20th-Fox.

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B. G. DeSylva, Paramount executive producer, celebrated his third anniversary in that post last week. . . . Victor Wolfson makes his screen debut as a writer on Lester Cowan's "Tomorrow the World," for United Artists. . . . Diana Barrymore returned to Hollywood to play a feminine heavy in the next Olsen-Johnson picture at Universal. Edmund Hartmann is producing and Gloria Jean will have her first grownup role in the comedy, as yet untitled.

•

Donna Reed, who played the feminine lead in "See Here, Private Hargrove" at M-G-M, has been given an important role in "Mrs. Parkington" . . . Harry Beaumont will direct Ann Southern in her newest Maisie picture, "Maisie Goes to Reno," which rolls soon at M-G-M. . . . When Boris Karloff finishes in "The Climax" at Universal he will go into "Destiny," at the same time airing a new radio chiller, "Creeps in the Night," from Hollywood. . . . Warners have Ronald MacDougall at work on the script for "Objective Burma." . . . Peggy Ryan, who has played in 13 pictures with Donald O'Connor, has been resigned by Universal.

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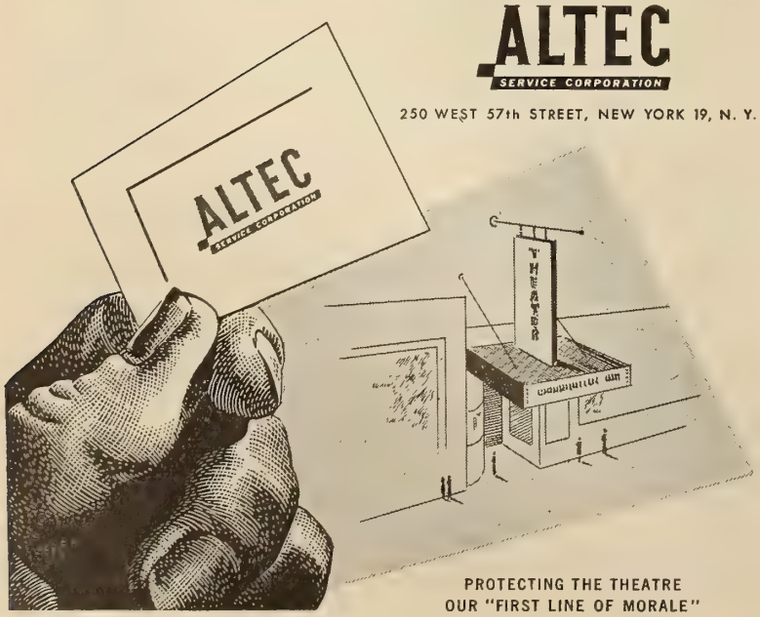
Spurred by box-office reports on "For Whom the Bell Tolls," B. G. DeSylva now has plans to remake the Ernest Hemingway novel, "A Farewell to Arms," which the studio made in 1931 with Helen Hayes and Gary Cooper. A new treatment has been ordered by DeSylva who plans to seek the services of Ingrid Bergman to star with Ray Milland. Warners tried to buy "Arms" from Paramount a few weeks ago, with hope of starring Miss Bergman with Humphrey Bogart, but DeSylva turned down the deal. Now he hopes to obtain the actress from David O. Selznick, particularly in view of her chances of winning the Academy Award for best performance of the year in "Bell."

'Hargrove' Premiere

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Feb. 16.—World premiere of M-G-M's "See Here, Private Hargrove" will be held here Saturday at the Carolina Theatre, under the joint sponsorship of M-G-M and the Charlotte *News*, of which Pvt. Marion Hargrove, author of the book from which M-G-M made the picture, was a staff member. Mayor Herbert H. Baxter has proclaimed Feb. 19-26 "Marion Hargrove Week."

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4TH WAR LOAN

Don't Stop Now! Keep Selling Those "E" Bonds!





REMEMBER . . . .

All properly certified bond sales through February 29th will count in the "HONORED HUNDRED" contest. Mail your stubs and final report form to *your* STATE EXHIBITOR CHAIRMAN, bearing a postmark not later than March 15th, 1944.

HONORED HUNDRED!

There's Still Time!

100 theatre managers from all over America, Alaska and Hawaii who sell the greatest number of "E" bonds in ratio to the number of seats in their theatres will go to Washington, with all expenses paid, as an Executive Advisory Committee for the Fifth War Loan. In addition, they will receive scrolls, citations, medallions and acclaim!

War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, New York City

Paramount Sales Up 60% on Third Block, Agnew Discloses

(Continued from page 1)

sixth block of 1942-43, which was Paramount's fastest selling block since consent decree selling started over three years ago, according to Agnew.

Current block three is composed of "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek," "Standing Room Only," "Uninvited," "Timber Queen" and "Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout." The third block of 1942-43 contained "Palm Beach Story," "Lucky Jordan," "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," "The Avengers" and "Wrecking Crew." Block six of 1942-43 contained "Dixie," "So Proudly We Hail," "Submarine Alert," "Alaskan Highway" and "Henry Aldrich Swings It."

Shorts Sales Up

Elsewhere it was learned that sales of Paramount shorts are also running considerably ahead of last year with 1,020 more independent contracts signed to date than during a similar selling period in 1942-43.

Present indications are that Paramount will release the full 30 features as promised for 1943-44 by Agnew last July, with the possibility that there might even be a few more.

The first 1943-44 block contained five features with "Heroic Stalingrad —the City That Stopped Hitler" released separately. The second block contained four with "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "Lady in the Dark" sold separately. The fourth block will have five, including "The Hitler Gang." There were six blocks released during 1942-43, and with the possibility of the same number set this year; 25 features have already been set for release.

Screening 'Hitler Gang'

Paramount's "The Hitler Gang," will be tradeshown in all exchange centers on Friday, March 24, according to Neil Agnew, sales manager. The New York showing will be held at the Normandie Theatre at 10:30 a.m.

Theatres Face New Heating Oil Crisis

(Continued from page 1)

heating oil in other than private dwellings may not accept deliveries of additional oil if they have as much as a 10 days' supply on hand. A similar order was imposed last winter, and was revoked in May.

Heating oil supplies are tight in many sections of the East and the order is designed to permit available stocks to be spread more evenly. Officials hope, however, to be able to get through the winter without any cut in rations for exhibitors or other consumers.

Nat'l Theatres Buys 'Where Are Children'

National Theatres, operating more than 500 houses, all on the West Coast and in parts of the Midwest, has bought "Where Are Your Children?" for playing, it was learned here yesterday.

Films' Aid Put 4th Loan Over Top, Says Gamble

(Continued from page 1)

throughout the nation. Acting for Secretary Morgenthau and members of the War Finance division, he expressed to Skouras their "sincere appreciation to you, your associates, and to all of the patriotic men and women in your industry who have aided in this important home-front task."

The Treasury official urged theatres to turn in bond receipts up to the last reporting day, Feb. 29; they will be credited in the drive. "If present averages are maintained through the end of the drive," he continued, "we will go over the top on 'E' bonds. It will reach a new milestone in war-time financing."

Community Sales Gratifying

"The 'E' Bond sales in small communities have been especially gratifying," Gamble said, "and it is hoped that these sales will continue unceasingly until the final day of the campaign."

Meanwhile, reports of bond sales throughout the nation are trickling in from MOTION PICTURE DAILY field correspondents.

In the Omaha territory 17,458 bonds have been sold to date, totaling $7,640,395, Frank Hannon, distributor chairman, announced. In New Haven, first figures computed show a total of $1,676,566 in "E" bond sales in 57 theatres, exclusive of special shows. Harry F. Shaw is state chairman. The first 20 bond premieres and special shows to be heard from there account for $4,687,125.

From Kansas City comes a report on two bond premieres which resulted in sales totaling $1,251,107. A "Victory Night" program is scheduled later in the month by the city's three Commonwealth theatres.

Warner Employes Top Quota

Locally, the Warner home office reported yesterday that employes' purchases up to Tuesday amounted to $315,000, against a quota of $250,000. Delayed returns are expected to add to this total, it was stated.

James Sauter and Stanley Woodward, at the "Stars for Victory" show at the Waldorf-Astoria this week, accepted pledges to purchase $54,000,000 in bonds from Myron S. Short, president of New York State Savings Bank. The pledges were accepted on behalf of the United Theatrical War Activities and the War Bond sports committees.

State Dep't Granted Funds for Pictures

(Continued from page 1)

including authority to use money from its contingent funds for the purchase, rental, distribution and operation of motion-picture projectors.

The bureau reduced the Department's appropriation for cooperation with the American republics, under which it is authorized to make free distribution or loan of motion picture films, radio transcriptions, etc., from $4,500,000, estimated, to $3,450,000, with a view to deferring certain programs not felt to be of immediate necessity.

Anti-Trust Fund Cut

Also included in the measure were appropriations for the Departments of Justice and Commerce, the committee cutting the fund for the Justice Department's Anti-Trust Division to $1,390,000 from an estimated $1,400,000 and a current appropriation of $1,600,000. The total for the Criminal Division, headed by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark, who is in charge of film matters, was reduced $13,500 from the estimates to $1,250,000, but is nearly double the $653,000 available for this year.

In dealing with the Commerce Department, the Committee allowed the estimate of $1,905,000 for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, including Nate Golden's motion picture section, an increase of $251,000 over the present appropriation.

Loew-Hakim Incorporate

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16.—Loew-Hakim, Inc., new film production company, has filed an incorporation application at Sacramento, naming Robert Hakim, David L. Loew and David Tannenbaum as directors.

PRC Franchise Change in Sight

(Continued from page 1)

clauses stipulates that the franchise holder guarantee a percentage of the negative cost of each picture against the gross receipts from his territory. This has been modified, it is understood, to an overall guarantee of the season's program, which at the end of the season would enable the franchise holder to offset a deficiency of one or more pictures by those pictures grossing beyond the negative guarantee.

Constance Bennett to Produce for PRC

Constance Bennett has joined PRC as a producer-star, it was disclosed here yesterday by Leon Fromkess, vice-president in charge of production. She will report to the studio in May to start on an original which she is now writing.

Miss Bennett has appeared in numerous films for M-G-M, Warner Brothers, RKO, United Artists, Goldwyn and other studios, some of her recent pictures including "Sin Town" and "Madame Spy," for Universal.

N.Y.Exchange Terms Same for All of U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

settlement. Boston and Atlanta workers are also understood to have been mulling a strike call.

The current settlement is understood to be an interim one pending action by the War Labor Board on a petition to grant the workers a 10 per cent increase. The Wage Stabilization Office has turned down the petition because the workers had already received a 13 per cent increase under the "Little Steel" formula. An appeal was taken to the WLB.

'Hays Office', by Moley, Out in Fall

(Continued from page 1)

yesterday that the book is not a history of the industry but is rather "the story of how one industry worked toward a cooperative plan within itself—self-government in industry."

"I have always been convinced," Moley continued, "that unless business learned to govern itself, the Government would do it, and above all we must keep that from happening." He stressed the NRA, with which he was associated, as an attempt to reach the ideal of business self-government, but said it "undertook too much."

'Open Door Policy'

Citing the motion-picture field as "an outstanding example of how an industry learned to govern itself," Moley specified the development of the Production Code, the "open-door policy" that has recognized the need for better taste and the demand for better pictures, and the MPPDA's activities in connection with foreign countries as outstanding steps which have been taken within the industry. All are treated at length in Moley's forthcoming book.

Set Film Red Cross Plans February 24

(Continued from page 1)

War Activities Committee will stress the necessity of attendance to all local theatre managers, exchange personnel, including bookers and salesmen, and home office advertising-publicity members.

Committees set up to handle the breakfast include Sam Rinzler, general chairman, and Max Cohen, co-chairman; David Weinstock, chairman of arrangements and treasurer; Rinzler, Sol Schwartz, Edward Alperson and Weinstock, tickets; Fred Schwartz and Leo Brecher, program; Charlie MacDonald, reception; Don Jacocks and Harry Lowenstein, representing New Jersey, and Myron Siegel, secretary.

Donation from Every Earner Hollywood Aim

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—"A Donation from Every Earner," rather than a money total, was set as the goal in the industry's local Red Cross campaign at an organization meeting today in the Roosevelt Hotel here, presided over by Chairman Frank Carothers.

The committee adopted a "yardstick for giving," ranging from a day's pay from workers earning under $5,000 annually to eight day's pay from those whose salary exceeds $150,000.

Extend Child Ban To Camden County

(Continued from page 1)

of the Stanley, one of four Warner houses here, and secretary Joseph Varbalow of the Savar Amusement Co., operator of four other large city theatres, met with Mariano today in a vain effort to get him to revise the order. The prosecutor told them that in an effort to stamp out juvenile delinquency, it will be rigidly enforced.

CINEMA LODGE
BNAI BRITH BENEFIT

WED. EVE., FEB. 23, 1944

For tickets call Bernard Goodman
Warner Bros. CI-6-1000

Michael Todd's

Mexican Hayride



by HERBERT and DOROTHY FIELDS

Staged by
HASSARD SHORT

Starring
BOBBY CLARK
with
JUNE HAVOC
GEORGE GIVOT
WILBUR EVANS

DANCES By PAUL HAAKON

Scenery by
GEORGE JENKINS

Costumes by
MARY GRANT

SONGS BY COLE PORTER

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 22	SWING OUT THE BLUES Bob Haymes Lynn Merrick M—70 mins.	(Sixth Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)	SULTAN'S DAUGHTER Ann Corio C—64 mins. (888) WESTWARD BOUND O—(362) VODOO MAN Bela Lugosi D	(Second Block) RIDING HIGH (Technicolor) Dorothy Lamour Dick Powell Victor Moore M—89 mins. (4307)	NABONGA Buster Crabbe Fifi D'Orsay Barton MacLane D—73 mins. (408)	ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RHYTHM Gene Autry (Re-issue) O (3301)	(Block Three) AROUND THE WORLD Kay Kyser M—80 mins. (411)	UNCENSORED (Made in England) Phyllis Calvert Griffiths Jones D—83 mins. (418)		SPIDER WOMAN Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce Gale Sondergaard D—62 mins. (8021)	
Jan. 29	BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKE Joan Davis John Hubbard C—74 mins.	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	WHAT A MAN Johnnie Downs C—66 mins. (228) RAIDERS OF THE BORDER Johnny Mack Brown O—(352)	NO TIME FOR LOVE Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray Ilka Chase C—83 mins. (4309)		WOMEN IN WAR Elsie Janis D	THE GHOST SHIP Richard Dix D—69 mins. (412)	LIFEBOAT Talullah Bankhead William Bendix D—96 mins. (419)	KNICKER-BOCKER HOLIDAY Nelson Eddy Charles Coburn D	PHANTOM LADY Franchot Tone Ella Raines Alan Curtis D—87 mins.	
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE COWBOY CANTEEN Charles Starrett O—72 mins.	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)		HENRY ALDRICH HAUNTS A HOUSE Jimmy Lydon Charles Smith John Litel C—73 mins. (4306)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—67 mins. (409)		TARZAN'S DESERT MYSTERY Johnny Weismuller Nancy Kelly D—70 mins. (413)			SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D—63 mins.	MADAME CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)				ROOKIES IN BURMA Alan Carney Wally Brown C—62 mins. (414)	(Feb. Releases. No definite date set) JANE EYRE Joan Fontaine Orson Welles D—96 mins. (420)	THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D—94 mins. (8066)	THIS IS THE ARMY (Regular release) George Murphy Joan Leslie M—115 mins. (224)
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417)		MINESWEEPER Richard Arlen Jean Parker D—67 mins. (4308)		CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins. (333)	HIGHER AND HIGHER Frank Sinatra Michele Morgan Jack Haley M—90 mins. (415)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D—11 mins. (421)		WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D—63 mins. (8029)	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D	(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)			(Block Four) TENDER COMRADE Ginger Rogers Robert Ryan D—102 mins. (416)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M—(8011)	
Mar. 4		RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—(418)	SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315) ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)	FRONTIER OUTLAWS Buster Crabbe O—(462) LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE Lionel Atwill Joan Parker D—(414)	BENEATH WESTERN SKIES Bob Livingston "Smiley" Burnette O—56 mins. (354)	PASSPORT TO DESTINY Elsa Lanchester Gordon Oliver D—64 mins. (417)	(March Release. No definite date set) PURPLE HEART Dana Andrews Tala Birell D			FRISCO KID (Re-issue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11	HEY ROOKIE! Ann Miller Joe Besser Larry Parks C	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—115 mins. (419)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)		MOJAVE FIREBRAND Wild Bill Elliott G. "Gabby" Hayes 55 mins.—(377)	THE CURSE OF THE CAT PEOPLE Simone Simon Kent Smith D—70 mins. (418)	4 JILLS IN A JEEP Carole Landis Martha Raye Dick Haymes C	VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	HAT CHECK HONEY Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett C—(8031)	PASSAGE TO MARSEILLES Humphrey Bogart Claude Rains D—110 mins.
Mar. 18	TWO-MAN SUBMARINE Tom Neal Ann Savage J. Carroll Naish D	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—100 mins. (420)		HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	THUNDERING GUN SLINGERS Buster Crabbe Al "Fuzzy" St. John O—(463)		ESCAPE TO DANGER Eric Portman Ann Dvorak D—84 mins. (419)			LADIES COURAGEOUS Loretta Young Geraldine Fitzgerald Phillip Terry D	
Mar. 25	SUNDOWN VALLEY Charles Starrett Jeanne Bates Walter "Dub" Taylor O—55 mins.	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)		TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)			ACTION IN ARABIA George Sanders Virginia Bruce D—75 mins. (420)		SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Bonita Granville C	HI GOOD-LOOKIN' Harriet Hilliard Eddie Quillan Ozzie Nelson's Orchestra Jack Teagarden's Orchestra M—(8044)	
April 1	THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Gloria Stuart D	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	HOT RHYTHM M—79 mins. Dona Drake Robert Lowery				UP IN ARMS (special release) Danny Kaye Dinah Shore C—106 mins. (Technicolor)		UP IN MABEL'S ROOM Gail Patrick John Hubbard C	FOLLOW THE BOYS M	

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 35 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1944 TEN CENTS

RKO Will Save $1,250,000 by New Financing

$14,000,000 Estimated Profit, Before Taxes

Arrangements are expected to be completed within 30 days between B. F. Keith Corp., RKO theatre subsidiary, and the First National Bank of Boston to refinance existing obligations by the sale of $9,500,000 of 12½-year 3¼ per cent Keith obligations, Malcolm Kingsberg, RKO vice-president and treasurer told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday. The purpose of the refinancing is the consolidation of existing obligations under one single issue, he added. First dis-



Malcolm Kingsberg

(Continued on page 5)

PRC Will Elect New Officers Soon

New officers of PRC Pictures, Inc., will be elected at a board of directors meeting, which is to be held in the next few days, it was disclosed by Leon Fromkess, vice-president in charge of production, yesterday. It is anticipated that Fromkess will become president of the company, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 1. O. H. Briggs recently resigned from that post.

Meetings with the franchise holders and PRC executives which have just been concluded were preliminary and a

(Continued on page 4)

Allied Tax Group Meets Here Today

The special taxation committee of Allied States, appointed Feb. 2 at a board meeting in Chicago, will meet here this afternoon to discuss the proposal that Allied join with other exhibitor groups to present a "united front" on future Federal tax legislation.

P. J. Wood, secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, will

(Continued on page 5)

Court Holds Side Agreements Cannot Supplant Contracts

BOSTON, Feb. 17.—Federal Judge Haley, presiding at the trial of suits by the eight major companies against the E. M. Loew circuit for alleged falsification of reports on percentage engagements, today excluded a line of questioning by defense counsel which sought to show that discrepancies in reports might have been the result of side agreements or oral understandings with film sales representatives here.

The court held that even if such alleged agreements were made, they were not admissible in the trial, since a contract approved by the home office could not be changed except by another written agreement. Previously, Philip Berler, chief buyer and booker for the independent circuit, admitted on the stand that reports of

(Continued on page 5)

'Tarawa' Is Potent War Film; A 'Must'

"With the Marines at Tarawa" is a graphic, sobering camera record of the battle last November in which approximately 1,000 Marines were killed and 2,500 wounded in 76 hours before the Japs were dislodged from Betio Island on Tarawa atoll in the Gilberts It is deserving of the widest possible exhibition.

Photographed in 16mm. Kodachrome

(Continued on page 5)

Expect Roosevelt Veto of Tax Bill

Washington, Feb. 17.—President Roosevelt is understood to have informed Congressional leaders that he will veto the new $2,315,000,000 tax bill, which includes an increased theatre admission levy of one cent on five cents.

The President is said to be dissatisfied with the bill because it fails to produce sufficient additional revenue, but the sentiment expressed in Congressional circles is that there would be strong support for a motion to pass the measure over the veto.

4,000 Red Cross Pledges Already Received: Bernhard

Pledges from over 4,000 theatres, one-fourth of the national total, assuring their participation in the War Activities Committee-Motion Picture Theaters Division Red Cross Week, already have been received at WAC headquarters, it was disclosed here yesterday by Joseph Bernhard, Warners, national chairman for the industry in the 1944 campaign next month.

"This large and spontaneous response, within three days after mailing of pledge forms, indicates that the theatres of the country are getting behind the Red Cross drive with the

(Continued on page 5)

Canadians Head for Unity; Appeal to Gov't Cancelled

TORONTO, Feb. 17.—As an outgrowth of a Canada-wide film industry "peace" meeting here today, independent exhibitors have dropped their movement to call on the Federal government to take action to regulate the business.

With all parties in the session, held at the King Edward Hotel, having stated a desire to seek harmony within the trade voluntarily, a committee comprising two representatives from film exchanges, one each from Famous Players and Odeon Theatres, and four from independent exhibitors, was named to meet tomorrow and set up principles for the guidance of the industry and to deal with postwar developments.

Appointed for distributors were A.

(Continued on page 5)

Played 12,619 Shows On Million-Mile Tour

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17. — The Hollywood Victory Committee during the past year nearly doubled activities of the first year, with 1,562 players traveling more than 1,000,000 miles to make 12,619 appearances covering every American military area on the globe and all sectors of the home front, the committee's annual report today disclosed.

Highlighting the activities, 49 players visited American fighting forces in combat areas, giving shows in huts, on top of tanks, in jungle clearings and in tent hospitals close to front

(Continued on page 5)

Curtailments Bar Rise in Army's Films

No Hope Seen of Increase In Overseas Programs

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Officers of the Army's special service division today saw little hope for increasing motion picture service for men overseas above the present average of three new pictures a week because of limitations on Hollywood production, limitations on raw stock for printing and on printing capacity and the restricted capacity of projector manufacturers.

"Face the facts frankly," said Col. O. N. Solbert, chief of special service in the European theatre of operations: "There are not enough good pictures produced or enough prints of them made, nor enough projectors built to provide a first-rate and different picture every night in the week for all American forces overseas."

It was explained that Hollywood currently produces about 350 features a year, of which possibly 100 are rated in the "A" category and of which at least 30 will be in Technicolor, only a dozen of the latter being

(Continued on page 5)

Dismiss Attempt to Split 306, Empire

Kings County Supreme Court Judge Charles S. Colden yesterday dismissed the action brought by three members of Empire State Operators Union to prevent it from continuing its merger with IATSE projectionists' Local 306 here. The unionists charged a conspiracy to destroy Empire and to misappropriate its funds.

Judge Colden stated that "the plaintiffs failed to establish either that unlawful means were used or that an

(Continued on page 5)

17 States Report Heavy 'Dimes' Totals

Late reports of March of Dimes collections reaching the industry's national "Dimes" headquarters here from chairmen in 17 states reveal that "collections ran far ahead of the most optimistic expectations," a "Dimes" committee statement said yesterday.

Following are comparative totals of the 17 states: Florida, $74,179 ($9,724 in 1943); Oklahoma, $54,000 ($20,-

(Continued on page 5)

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 17

"LADY in the Dark" beat previous attendance records by 23 per cent during its opening week at downtown Hollywood theatres, according to Paramount.

•

Lester Cowan left here today by plane for New York and Washington, to test principals of "Tomorrow the World," for roles in a picture based on the play which will follow "Here Is Your War" on Cowan's UA schedule.

•

Paul Soskin, producer in J. Arthur Rank's independent London producer set-up, who is now in Hollywood to photograph exteriors for "Signed With Their Honour," has engaged Arthur Koestler to do the screenplay of "Fame Is the Spur," second on his schedule.

•

Pine-Thomas has acquired "Combat Correspondent" for early summer production. Conferences regarding the film will be held with Marine Corps officials in Washington during the next fortnight.

•

"Trial by Trigger," first of a new series of two-reel Warner Westerns, started production today. William McGann is directing and Gordon Hollingshead is producing.

•

Warners have borrowed Hedy Lamarr from M-G-M for the feminine lead in "Conspirators".

Jersey Exhibitors' War Role Lauded

New Jersey exhibitors were praised this week by State executives for their cooperation in the war effort. Attorney General Walter D. Van Riper declared that exhibitors have greatly aided promotion of war bond sales, Red Cross collections, USO drives, United Nations fund and Army-Navy recruiting, among others. Their presentation of war films, he said, has been for millions "a vital factor in building and sustaining morale and patriotism."

Arthur W. Magee, State Motor Vehicle Commissioner, said exhibitors deserved the gratitude of state and nation for their role in the war effort.

WAC Film Aids Navy

Exhibition through the War Activities Committee of "Chief Neeley Reports to the Nation," is credited by Lt. Commander John A. Mayer, USNR, with helping the Navy meet its quotas on WAVE enlistments. In a letter to the WAC here, Commander Mayer stated: "At the time exhibitors started showing 'Chief Neeley' we were averaging 650 enlistments a week. In the last two weeks we have been enlisting over 1,000 per week."

Martin Quigley to N. Y.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—Martin Quigley leaves for New York Friday.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president in charge of distribution, returned to New York yesterday from a Miami vacation, one day earlier than scheduled.

•

MARGARET MARY COMERFORD, daughter of MRS. M. B. COMERFORD, and the late founder of the Comerford Circuit, has become engaged to CPL. ROBERT J. O'HARA, at Scranton, Pa.

•

JACK BLOOM, assistant to L. J. SCHLAIFER, 20th-Fox Central sales manager, has returned to the home office following six weeks in Florida convalescing from an appendectomy.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, returned from a Coast studio trip yesterday.

•

GEORGE L. CARRINGTON, president of Altec Service, returned to Hollywood headquarters yesterday from New York.

•

A. H. BLANK, head of Tri-States Theatres, Des Moines, and MRS. BLANK will return to their home Feb. 27 from six weeks in Florida.

•

AL SHERMAN, visiting New York for two days, returned to Washington yesterday. He will be back on Tuesday.

•

JOEL SWENSEN of Warners and MRS. SWENSEN are the parents of a boy, born this week in the Stamford Hospital, Stamford, Conn.

•

JEAN MACDONALD, assistant to JOHN CASSIDY, RKO publicist, will spend the holiday weekend in Wilmington, Del.

•

GERTRUDE SCHEEDEL of the RKO film booking department will leave for a two-week vacation in Florida on Tuesday.

•

LEON FROMKESS, PRC Pictures vice-president in charge of production, is expected to return to Hollywood on Wednesday.

CHARLES SMAKWITZ, Albany Warner theatre executive, has arrived in New York to handle the industry's "Red Cross Week" publicity.

•

MORTON A. SPRING, head of the International department of Loew's, is expected back from Hollywood on Monday.

•

GARRETT VAN WAGNER, RKO comptroller, has been designated home office chairman for the forthcoming Red Cross drive.

•

SENATOR HENRY WALTERS has returned to New York from Florida after convalescing from a recent illness.

•

FRANK SMITH, manager of the Lenox Theatre, Hartford, is confined to his home with the grippe.

•

NICK LAVADORE, manager of the Crown Theatre, New London, Conn., has been inducted into the Navy.

•

JESSE GAW, assistant manager at Loew's Poli, Hartford, was a Boston visitor this week.

•

JACK BOWEN, M-G-M New York metropolitan district manager, left yesterday for Miami Beach.

•

WILLIAM A. SCULLY, Universal general sales manager, entrained for Miami Beach yesterday.

•

ARTHUR RAPF of the Rapf and Ruden circuit left yesterday for Florida.

•

LILY MESSINGER of M-G-M's studio story department will arrive Saturday from the Coast.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warners' general sales manager, will return today from Toronto.

•

LINSAY DURAND of the Paramount studio publicity staff will leave New York tomorrow for the Coast.

•

JULES LAPIDUS and ED HINCHY of Warners were in Albany yesterday.

Mager Testifies in Jackson Park Suit

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Edward Mager, head of the Allied Theatres of Illinois booking department, testified today in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust trial, reviewing the plaintiff's booking situations with the defendant distributors.

Richard Saulkins, former manager of the theatre, this morning ended three days on the stand, contending that the house could garner the same volume of revenue as opposition theatres with prior clearance on features.

Al Gorson Switches

Al Gorson, former Universal radio and exploitation contact who resigned several weeks ago to join Columbia, has left Columbia to join Frederick Artists Bureau.

V. M. Palmer, 62, Was Kodak Official

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 17.—Virgil M. Palmer, 62, superintendent of the industrial engineering department of Eastman Kodak, died here this week. He was with the company 31 years.

Before going to Kodak, he was connected with motor companies as an automotive engineer. He was president of the Society of Industrial Engineers. Surviving are his wife, two sons and a brother, Maurice Palmer of West Hartford, Conn.

Roxy Tops Bond Quota

The Roxy Theatre here sold 6,937 bonds totaling $738,225 during the 4th War Loan drive, Nathan Dinnes, in charge of bond sales for the house, and Irving Lesser, chairman of the Broadway motion picture theatre managers group, reported yesterday.

Cite Author Werfel For 'Bernadette'

Franz Werfel, author of 20th Century-Fox's "The Song of Bernadette" and the Theatre Guild's new play "Jacobowsky and the Colonel" has been awarded a citation by the National Conference of Christians and Jews for his work.

In accordance with arrangements made by Al Tamarin, Theatre Guild press chief, presentation of the citation will be made "in absentia" to Annabella of the Theatre Guild play in Philadelphia on Feb. 24. Werfel is now in Hollywood.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
Joan Fontaine • Orson Welles
"JANE EYRE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
GALA STAGE SHOW
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
In Paramount's
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG and his Orchestra
HAZEL SCOTT
GIL LAMB
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
Midnight Feature Nightly Buy More War Bonds

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
"ACTION IN ARABIA"
GEORGE SANDERS
VIRGINIA BRUCE

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
ON SCREEN
"Phantom Lady"
FRANCHOT TONE
ELLA RAINES
IN PERSON
LOUIS PRIMA and Orch.

ANNE BAXTER
THOMAS MITCHELL
"THE SULLIVANS"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus a Big Stage Show
ROXY
7th Ave. and 50th St.

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 10 a. m.
Rivoli B'way & 49th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief: Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign. single copies, 10c.



A scene from "LOST ANGEL" another sensational hit in M-G-M's famed "VITAMIN 12"

A STAR IS BORN!

–An unforgettable first appearance in "Journey For Margaret."
–Next she touched America's heart in a "United Nations" trailer.
–Then an appealing role in "Dr. Gillespie's Criminal Case."
–And right up with the big names in "Thousands Cheer."
–Listen to your folks now as they pack your house to see her!

The Nation's Darling—M-G-M's

MARGARET O'BRIEN

as the "LOST ANGEL"



"Remember! March 15 Deadline for Honored Hundred Bond Reports to State Chairmen!"

'Lady' Draws $20,000 Over Par in L. A.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 17.—"Lady in the Dark," single-billed at the two Paramounts, got $57,500, about $20,000 over average. Runner-up first-run was "What a Woman," which, doubled with "Racket Man" at the Hillstreet and Pantages, collected $46,000; $36,390 is par. "Jane Eyre" and "Men on Her Mind" managed to get $63,500 in PWC's four-sided Carthay Circle-Chinese-Loew's State-Uptown setup, the figure comparing to a $61,467 average, and the total profiting by the all-night policy inaugurated by Loew's State the week preceding.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 16:

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Men on Her Mind" (PRC)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $11,880).

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Men on Her Mind" (PRC)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $15,692).

"The Iron Major" (RKO)
"Escape to Danger" (RKO)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,590).

"The Song of Bernadette"
FOUR STAR—(900) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $7,570).

"Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
"The Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,865).

"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Racket Man" (Col.)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $19,544).

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Men on Her Mind" (PRC)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $23,577).

"The Iron Major" (RKO)
"Escape to Danger" (RKO)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $14,354).

"What a Woman!" (Col.)
"Racket Man" (Col.)
PANTAGES—(2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $16,846).

"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $11,115).

"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $37,500. (Average: $21,307).

"The Iron Major" (RKO)
"Escape to Danger" (RKO)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $8,800. (Average: $9,873).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $19,800. (Average: $27,967).

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Men on Her Mind" (Col.)
UPTOWN—(1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $10,318).

"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS. HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,770. (Average: $16,362).

"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS.' DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,027. (Average: $18,480).

"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER BROS.' WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,748. (Average: $17,162).

Oliver to See Press

Dave Oliver, Pathe News war correspondent, who has returned to the U. S. after nine months overseas with both the Royal Air Force and the Fifth Army, will hold a press conference on Monday, Feb. 20, at 625 Madison Ave., Pathe News headquarters here.

Review

"The Ghost That Walks Alone"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, Feb. 17

THIS comedy-drama-mystery produced by Jack Fier, with Lew Landers directing from Clarence Upson Young's screenplay, combines a few comedy spots with a dash of mystery. Arthur Lake is a sound effects man who weds Lynne Roberts, heroine of a radio program, and whose honeymoon is disrupted when the producer, disliked by the entire cast, insists they must all rehearse during the honeymoon or lose their sponsor.

The producer is found murdered and Lake and two others hide the body in hope of unraveling the mystery before calling in the police. His bride becomes angry over his mysterious antics, but he stumbles across a clue when an eccentric guest at the lodge takes a liking to him. When the murderer is about to slay the bride and the eccentric guest to silence them, Lake dashes in with police and apprehends the slayer.

Running time, 64 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 10, 1944.

JACK CARTWRIGHT

*"G" denotes general classification.

'Bell's' Big $23,000 In Milwaukee Run

MILWAUKEE Feb. 17.—"For Whom the Bell Tolls" at the Palace will probably hit the top at $23,000, while "The Fighting Seabees" at the Riverside with "Hollywood Cover Girls of 1944" on the stage, is second with $17,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 18:

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
WISCONSIN—(3,200) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $12,500).

"For Whom the Bell Tolls" (Para.)
PALACE—(2,400) (75c-$1.10, special engagement) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $9,500).

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"What a Woman" (Col.)
STRAND—(1,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days, 4th week downtown. Gross: $3,600. (Average: $4,000).

"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
WARNER—(2,400) (44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $14,000).

"Desert Song" (WB)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
ALHAMBRA—(1,900) (44c-65c) 7 days. 3rd week downtown. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,200).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
RIVERSIDE—(2,700) (44c-50c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $13,000).

PRC Will Elect New Officers Soon

(*Continued from page* 1)

national sales convention will be held in New York some time in April, he continued.

PRC's 1944-45 program will consist of 24 features and 16 Westerns, the same as the present season, with budgets ranging as high as $300,000, Fromkess said. PRC will produce approximately 50 per cent of next season's product, the balance being completed by independent producers, he said.

Murphy PRC Branch Manager in Buffalo

BUFFALO, Feb. 17.—Leo Murphy, formerly Buffalo and Rochester salesman for Producers Releasing, has became manager of PRC's Buffalo branch. Murphy went to PRC from Columbia one year ago.

J. B. Berkson, Buffalo PRC franchise holder, will hereafter spend most of his time in New York.

'Escape' Dual Leads Buffalo with $19,000

BUFFALO, Feb. 17.—"None Shall Escape" and "Doughboys in Ireland" were bidding for a big $19,000 at the Lafayette to lead here. "The Fighting Seabees" and "Hoosier Holiday" were rounding out a fine two weeks at the 20th Century for over $25,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19:

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
BUFFALO—(3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,400. (Average: $16,500).

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $16,400).

"In Our Time" (WB)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,500).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Hoosier Holiday" (Rep.)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,700. (Average: $10,600).

"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Doughboys in Ireland" (Col.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $10,500).

New Haven Yields $10,500 to 'Angel'

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 17. — Business was good at the downtowns, with Loew's Poli playing "Lost Angel" and "The Racket Man," and taking $10,500, over by $1,500. At the Bijou, "Ravaged Earth" and "Jive Junction" netted $3,700.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 17:

"Ravaged Earth" (Crystal)
"Jive Junction" (PRC)
BIJOU—(1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $3,600).

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"O My Darling Clementine" (Rep.)
COLLEGE—(1,565) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,600. (Average: $3,500).

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"The Racket Man" (Col.)
LOEW'S POLI—(3,005) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $9,000).

"The Woman of the Town" (UA)
"Sc's Your Uncle" (Univ.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,400).

"Frisco Kid" (WB)
"You're a Lucky Fellow, Mr. Smith" (Univ.)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 6½ days. Gross: $5,400. (Average: $7,000).

'London' at the Palace

"Jack London," Samuel Bronston's first release through United Artists, will have its New York premiere at the Palace Theatre following "Action in Arabia," which opens today.

Pittsburgh Sags in Week of Blizzards

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 17.—In a week of blizzards, icy streets and violent winds, Pittsburghers stayed away from theatres in droves. Closest to average business was done by the Stanley, where "Cry Havoc," with Phil Regan on the stage, promised $22,500, $200 under par.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 15-18:

"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 4 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average for full week: $9,000).

"Abi Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,600).

"The Desert Song" (WB)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $20,000).

"The North Star" (RKO)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd weke, moveover from the Penn. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $3,000).

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, going into 4th week (moveover after 10 days at the Harris). Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,200).

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
STANLEY — (3,800) (35c-50c-75c). On stage: 6 days of vaudeville, including Phil Regan and Jerry Wald's orchestra. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $22,700).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week (moveover after 1 week at Penn). Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,200).

Cleveland Gross Cut By Big Snow Storm

CLEVELAND, Feb. 17. — First run houses were casualties of the worst snow storm here in 10 years. "Song of Russia," "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" and "Lost Angel" survived only by a nose.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 16:

"Sahara" (Col.)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $8,500).

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $17,500).

"The Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $1,800. (Average: $3,000).

"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $4,500).

"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Andrew Sisters, Mitch Ayers orchestra and vaudeville. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $22,000).

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $17,500).

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,500).

Film Classics Starts Philadelphia Branch

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17. — Film Classics, Inc., will set up a branch here for the sale of reissues, with Jack Engels, former RKO salesman, as manager. Associated with him will be Jack Greenberg, local exhibitor, and Saul Krugman, former United Artists salesman.

'Voice' for War Workers

CAMDEN, N. J., Feb. 17.—The first film "world premiere" for war workers will be held here Saturday, Feb. 26, when United Artists' "Voice in the Wind" will be shown to RCA employes of the Victor plant here. The screening will be at the Lyric Theatre.

Canadians' Appeal To Gov't Cancelled

(Continued from page 1)

W. Perry of Empire Universal Films and Louis Rosenfeld of Columbia Pictures, while J. J. Fitzgibbons and Haskell Masters will attend for Famous Players and Odeon, respectively. The Independents will be headed by A. J. Mason of Springhill, N. S., president of the National Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada.

Among those who attended today's session were B. C. Salamis of Montreal, D. Halpern of Winnipeg, P. W. Mahon of Prince Albert, Sask., and Henry Falk and Ben Freedman of Toronto; also two representing distributors, Fitzgibbons and Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the Motion Picture Distributors Association of Canada.

It was divulged after the closed meeting that the delegates were taking a long range view on the subject of trade unity and that a sincere attempt was being made to iron out differences of long standing.

Curtailments Bar More Army Films

(Continued from page 1)

available to the Army in the required 16mm width because of laboratory reasons. Thus the Army will have about 82 "A" pictures, it was said, and must select from 74 first-rate "B" films in order to maintain the current weekly quota.

A 16mm film library of approximately 525 programs is now in circulation in all parts of the European theatre of war. Eleven large houses are using 35mm film, mostly at large permanent posts and convalescent hospitals, and a number of mobile units, using 16mm equipment make regularly scheduled visits to all units not equipped with their own projectors.

Allied Tax Group Meets Here Today

(Continued from page 1)

preside as chairman of the committee. Other members are Maxwell A. Alderman, executive secretary of Allied of Connecticut, and Harry H. Lowenstein, president of Allied of New Jersey. Also present will be David Palfreyman, MPPDA exhibitor contact.

Lowenstein told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday that today's discussion would be of a tentative nature, inasmuch as plans for entering into a permanent organization had not been definitely set. At the time of the board meeting in Chicago it was stated that the committee was empowered to poll the entire Allied membership by mail on the "united front" tax defense proposal.

The movement is said to be the outgrowth of experience encountered while the present Federal tax bill, with its increased admission levies, was pending.

Schwartz Tours Midwest

Sol A. Schwartz, RKO Theatres Western zone manager, will leave tomorrow for a trip that will take him to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Chicago and St. Paul. He will set simultaneous presentation in 60 cities on Tuesday of Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Five Moskowitzes to Fete Mrs. Moskowitz

The industry's Moskowitz brothers—Charles, Loew vice-president; Joe, 20th-Fox executive; Martin, 20th-Fox sales executive, Harry, Loew theatre construction official, and Arthur, formerly in exhibition and now in the furniture business, plan to honor their mother, Mrs. Anna Moskowitz, on her 80th birthday, Monday, at a dinner at the Moskowitz manor at Forest Hills, L. I.

Played 12,619 Shows On Million-Mile Tour

(Continued from page 1)

lines. Bases covered included those in the North Atlantic, United Kingdom, Africa, Italy, Middle East, India, China, Central, South and Southwest Pacific, Alaska, and the Aleutian zones.

In continental United States, 128 players appeared at 930 military installations, with the addition of 615 camp shows in one-night stands in Southern California.

The "Hollywood Bond Cavalcade" played to 415,000 bond buyers in 15 cities, selling more than $1,000,000,000 in bonds. Victory Committee players took part in 72 broadcasts, 28 transcriptions and 108 rallies for the Treasury's War Finance Committee.

Side Agreements Are Invalid, Court Says

(Continued from page 1)

gross receipts for sums less than actually received on percentage engagements had been made to distributors with the knowledge of E. M. Loew.

At the close of today's hearing Judge Haley said the case would be assigned to a special master, ruling that it involved so many complex issues of law that it would take too much of the Court's time to decide. The master will determine whether any liability or basis for damages exists on the part of the E. M. Loew circuit.

It was brought out in the testimony that all contracts were under the block booking system, and Joseph Abrams, attorney for E. M. Loew, immediately raised the point that the plaintiffs could not recover because the contracts were illegal. The statute of limitations was also invoked by the defense, claiming that many of the contracts under surveillance were made as long ago as ten years while the court had held that the investigation of the books should cover a period of only the past several months.

Re-Financing to Save RKO $1,250,000

(Continued from page 1)

closure that RKO was contemplating the refinancing was made in the DAILY last Dec. 2.

The new financial program will be on the basis of a 3¼ per cent interest rate, compared to the present rate of 4¼ per cent and will result in a total savings of approximately $1,250,000 in interest, about $100,000 a year. It will also retire all remaining preferred stock of Keith-Albee-Orpheum Corp., of which there is about $1,360,000 outstanding.

Estimated profit for RKO for 1943 will run around $14,000,000 before taxes. In view of the complicated corporate set-up of the various RKO subsidiaries, it was said to be impossible to make an overall estimate of taxes at present. Back dividends on RKO preferred stock have been paid up and it is expected that the next preferred dividend, due on May 1, will be declared, Kingsberg said.

RKO's net profit for the first 39 weeks of 1943 as reported on Nov. 30, 1943, in MOTION PICTURE DAILY was $5,008,074, compared to a net loss of $389,853 for the same period in 1942. Gross profits before taxes, reserves and depreciation for the 39 weeks last year were $11,914,106, compared to $2,302,210 for 1942.

4,000 Red Cross Pledges Already

(Continued from page 1)

same whole-hearted spirit they have just shown in the 4th War Loan and the March of Dimes," Bernhard said, adding, "It is typical of the industry's response to worthy causes."

Bernhard urged remaining exhibitors to rush pledges to campaign headquarters at the WAC offices, 1501 Broadway, New York, so that all theatres will immediately start receiving service on campaign material, including a special trailer, a 40 x 60 sheet, five midget reproductions of the 40 x 60, a one-sheet, and other items to be used in the drive. Pressbook has been placed in work and will be mailed about Feb. 26.

Bernhard and his administrative staff here are now completing the nationwide organizational setup, including district chairmen and various additional committee heads.

'Mission' to English Films

English Films here reports that it has acquired distribution rights to Marcel Hellman's "Secret Mission" for release in the United States and Latin America.

'With Marines at Tarawa' is Potent War Film; A 'Must'

(Continued from page 1)

by Marine Corps cameramen in the midst of the action, the film pulls no punches. From the pre-landing bombardment of the Jap-held island, to the final mopping up of the last Jap dugout, it seethes with gripping action, grim reality and photographic evidence of the price that American fighting men pay for every hard-won victory. It has the power to make Americans at home proud, but sober; cautious or fearful or appalled, but determined. It is a good antidote for unrealistic newspaper headlines clarioning victories, predicting doom for the enemy, dramatizing great Allied bombing missions. This is the battlefield on which men die by all of the instruments of war.

Non-Profit Distribution

The film, sponsored by the industry War Activities Committee, will be distributed by Universal on a non-profit basis. It has been compressed into two reels, with a running time of 19 minutes, from an original 15,000 feet made available by Government offices for public exhibition. It was scored, assembled and edited at the Warner Burbank studio, and Technicolor will provide 550 prints for release on March 2.

The exhibition of "With the Marines at Tarawa" in every theatre in America should not be regarded by exhibitors as a patriotic service. It is a public duty. S. K.

Dismiss Attempt to Split 306, Empire

(Continued from page 1)

unlawful end was sought by the defendants." The transactions here attacked were in all respects proper and lawful. Moreover, he added, "there is substantial evidence that this action was not brought in good faith for the best interests of Empire and its individual members," and "members of Empire benefit in a substantial manner as a result of the merger."

The defendants, represented by Nathan Frankel and Herbert Schrank, included former officers of Empire and 306 officers.

17 States Report Heavy ''Dimes' Total

(Continued from page 1)

998); North and South Carolina, $60,000 ($8,466); Northern California, $230,000 (last year the entire state collected $260,000); Connecticut, $69,550 ($54,493); Illinois, $214,000 ($107,414); Kansas, $84,000 ($44,000); Kentucky, $28,000 ($19,000); Michigan, $210,323 ($130,270); Rhode Island, $30,946 ($19,110); Tennessee, $60,000 ($32,270); Virginia, $60,000 ($27,945); Texas, $200,000 ($11,000); Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, $150,000 ($81,000).

ITOA Discusses Decree

Members of Independent Theatre Owners of America at a closed meeting here yesterday discussed ITOA's position as regards the distributors' proposals for a revised consent decree. It is understood that no definite brief on ITOA's stand has yet been written.

How Strike Was Averted

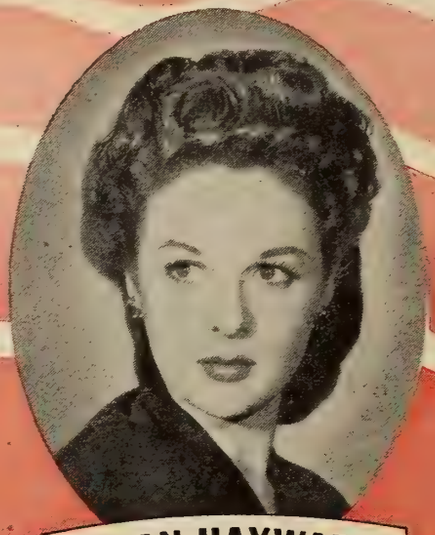
The following is the text of a telegram sent to all eight major companies by Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, late last week, officially advising them that the strike of exchange employes which had been called for midnight last Sunday, had been averted. "Backroom" employes all over the country were guided by the agreement reached in New York.

"I am instructing our members of film exchange locals' 'backroom' employes that on and after Feb. 21 the work week will consist of 40 hours, eight hours per day from Monday to Friday. Any work in excess of this time, including Saturday and Sunday, shall be paid for at the overtime rate of time and one-half. This is to continue until such time as negotiations are completed for a new contract."

REPUBLIC GIVES THE INDUSTRY O



JOHN WAYNE



SUSAN HAYWARD



DENNIS O'KEEFE

VAST POPULAR APPEAL

Republic has shot the works to insure wide public support of initial film of SeaBees' exploits. For this is a picture of vast popular appeal—one that has what it takes to roll up the biggest grosses of any footage to come out of the Republic studios. Exhibitors will be the benefactors of Republic's wisdom in producing the first picture extolling the heroic accomplishments of our naval construction battalions. The wide publicity that has been given the blood-tingling and imagination-stirring deeds of the SeaBees will assure the success of this picture, one of the exploitation plums of the year.

Thrills, excitement and action have not been spared . . . the force of the drama is softened by a strong injection of romance . . . holds out a powerful lure to the femmes. —FILM DAILY

PRE-SELLING BY REPUBLIC

The first full-dress tribute to the Fighting SeaBees, Navy co bat construction battalions, is a stirring picturization of the lus lads who both work and fight. Considerable production valu have been accorded . . . direction . . . with an eye to action an documentary realism . . . Considerable pre-selling by Republ will facilitate handling the picture. Intense interest by the publi in the Fighting SeaBees, whetted by many news stories, give showmen added exploitation advantages.

—MOTION PICTURE DAIL

A SCREEN HIT

Mark this down as one of the best to come out of the Republic studios and as a high ranking service film. It is packed with action, drama, comedy, romance, and all the ingredients that go to make a screen hit. Not only is this an exploitation natural, but the incidents in the film are actually in the papers from day to day. Characterizations by the groups are of a high calibre.

—THE EXHIBITOR

A SWELL PIECE OF ENTERTAINMENT

Story of the "CBs" (The Construction men in the U.S. Navy taken from real life made into a swell piece of entertainmen for every individual attending a motion picture theatre. Wit the right exploitation and the pull of the title, this should d outstanding business. There are many light moments; with jitterbug sequence by John Wayne; and a romance that ties th picture together exceptionally well. The cast is hand-picked an so realistic in their respective portrayals, that the picture seem a part of living and real life among these men. To Edwa Ludwig, who directed, must go credit for the realism portray . . . Associate Producer Albert J. Cohen is responsible for t intrinsic values and excellence in production.

—SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIE

THE FIGHTING

IS THE MONEY PIC

OF ITS MIGHTIEST ATTRACTIONS..!

BLOOD-STIRRING ACTION

Excitingly, spectacularly and authentically, this tells the story of the birth, growth and heroic accomplishments of that colorful branch of Uncle Sam's Navy, the construction battalions.

The cast . . . performs admirably and convincingly.

There is plenty of blood-stirring action and a strong thread of romance. —BOXOFFICE

BEST YET . . IN RECENT WAR PICTURES

. . this war melodrama shapes up as a virile entertainment, the sort that should undoubtedly please the action fans.

. . the story . . aided by smooth direction and good performances, moves along at a fast pace, and holds one's attention throughout. A romantic triangle, made up of sympathetic characters, should appeal to women. The battle sequences are exceptionally good, ranking with the best yet seen in recent war pictures. Particularly thrilling, and quite grim, is the battle that takes place towards the finish, where the SeaBees, though outnumbered, wipe out the Jap attackers.

—HARRISON REPORTS

SHOULD BE AMPLY REPAID AT THE BOXOFFICES

"The Fighting SeaBees", a rousing story of Pacific warfare. The battle scenes teem with action and excitement . . . The extended budget and production care . . . should be amply repaid at boxoffices throughout the country. —MOTION PICTURE HERALD

EXPLOITATION POSSIBILITIES ARE ABUNDANT

Republic has come through with a film on the U.S. Navy construction battalions that will hold its own as a billtopper on duals. Exploitation possibilities are abundant, and exhibitors have plenty of material to help them put this one over for good grosses. Performances are above average . . . A romantic angle adds selling points that will work to advantage at the boxoffice.

One of the best war sequences of recent vintage.

—WEEKLY VARIETY

BOX-OFFICE RECORDS

From Variety and Motion Picture Daily

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WOODS

CHICAGO, ILL. 4 WEEKS

Woods. (Essaness) (1,200; 50¢-85¢)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.) Strong $20,000

STANLEY

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 3 WEEKS

Stanley (WB) (2,915; 35¢-75¢)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.). Looks like best indie production of season with smash $27,000 plus $4,000 for Sabbath "gravy" show at Earle.

PARAMOUNT

NEW HAVEN, CONN. 2 WEEKS

Paramount (2,373) (40¢-55¢) 7 days

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.) Gross: $7,200. (Average: $6,400)

20TH CENTURY

BUFFALO, N. Y. 2 WEEKS

PARAMOUNT AND FENWAY

BOSTON, MASS. 2 WEEKS

Paramount (M-P) (1,700; 40¢-60¢)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.) and "Clementine" (Rep.). Record $18,000, about all traffic will bear.

Fenway (M-P) (1,373; 40¢-60¢)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.) and "Clementine (Rep.). Double average gross for this spot, huge $10,000 or over.

PARAMOUNT THEATRES

LOS ANGELES AND HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 2 WEEKS

Paramount (F & M) (3,389; 45¢-90¢)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.) and "Casanova Burlesque" (Rep.) (2nd wk.) Big $24,500. Last week "Seabees" solo on weekend, tremendous $34,000 and new house record for straight pictures on Sunday. (Jan. 30.)

Paramount Hollywood (F&M) (1,451; 45¢-90¢)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.) and "Casanova Burlesque" (Rep.) (2nd wk.). Nice $10,500. Last week, hefty $14,300.

OLYMPIC

UTICA, N. Y. 2 WEEKS

MAJESTIC

DALLAS, TEXAS 2 WEEKS

MOVEOVER TO

METROPOLITAN

WASHINGTON, D. C. FOR 2 WK. RUN

(AFTER A WEEK AT THE EARLE AND AMBASSADOR, WASHINGTON, D. C.)

Metropolitan (WB) (1,600; 30¢-55¢)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.). Nice $7,500 on moveover.

Earle (WB) (2,240; 30¢-90¢)

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.). with vaudeville. Nice notices helping to fine $21,500.

SEABEES

E OF THE YEAR

EDWARD LUDWIG, Director • Second Unit Directed by HOWARD LYDECKER

Screenplay by Borden Chase & Aeneas Mac Kenzie • Original Story by Borden Chase

WITH CERTAINTY

ON MANY FRONTS where vital pictures are made without rehearsal, the cameramen have utmost confidence in the unvarying high quality of Eastman films. This certainty is built on a half century of unexcelled performance. Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., ***Distributors***
Fort Lee Chicago Hollywood

EASTMAN FILMS

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 36 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1944 TEN CENTS

Exhibitors In All Areas In Dark On New Decree

Hundreds Interviewed Have Not Seen Draft Or Been Told of It; Blame Department Of Justice for Trade Press 'Gag'

Hundreds of exhibitors throughout the country are completely uninformed on the proposals of the five consenting companies for an amended industry decree, due largely, a majority of them declare, to the fact that the distributors' proposals were withheld from the trade press by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark.

This was disclosed as a result of inquiries made directly to exhibitors in all sections of the country by Motion Picture Daily. The first of the exhibitor statements, obtained in the New York metropolitan area, are published today. Others obtained by Motion Picture Daily correspondents around the country will be published from time to time during the next two weeks.

***Tradewise,* on Page 2 of today's *Motion Picture Daily,* discusses the effects and significance of the Department of Justice's action in withholding the new decree proposals from the trade press.**

The interviews with exhibitors were begun last week and are being continued. The initial results show that not one exhibitor among every 20 questioned has either seen a copy of the distributors' decree proposals or has had the proposals explained to him. It disclosed also that some in that category are members of regional or national exhibitor organizations which already have presented decree analyses and recommendations to the Department of Justice in Washington.

In conducting the inquiry, Motion

(*Continued on page 8*)

Canada Trade Sets Up Board For Governing

Plan for Conciliation and Regulation Adopted

Toronto, Feb. 20.—The principle of conciliation and regulation within the film industry in Canada was adopted at the committee conference on a united trade front at the weekend here, after frank discussion of proposals submitted by A. J. Mason of Springhill, N. S., president of the National Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada.

The committee, representing exchanges, chains and independents, adopted a policy establishing regional conciliation boards in six key distributing cities across the country, with a central appeal board in Toronto to deal with disputes and grievances, but this program is to be submitted to the distributing companies for approval.

The plan also calls for united action in self-regulation of distribution and

(*Continued on page 7*)

1,000 Will Attend Red Cross Breakfast

One thousand will attend the New York breakfast Thursday morning in the Hotel Astor as the "springboard" rally of the motion picture theatres' 1944 Red Cross drive, it was announced over the weekend by Dave Weinstock of the ticket committee, which also includes Sam Rinzler, Edward Alperson, Max A. Cohen and Sol Schwartz.

Joseph Bernhard, Warners' nation-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Warners Purchased $5,410,000 in Bonds

Purchase of war bonds by Warner Brothers in the 4th War Loan campaign totaled $5,410,000, it was made known here by the company at the weekend.

This represents only direct company purchases and does not include the more than $315,000 in bonds bought by employes.

Production Plans For War Center Equipment to WPB

Washington, Feb. 20.—Plans for the production of booth equipment and seats for theatres urgently needed in war centers but for which no applicants can be found who have the necessary projectors and chairs in hand, have been laid before War Production Board officials by George McMurphey, chief of the recreation section of the Office of Civilian Requirements, it was learned here at the weekend.

The WPB will be asked to authorize the manufacture of a considerable number of projectors, to be used in situations where theatres must be constructed to provide needed facilities, the lack of which may handicap the war program, McMurphey said.

A study now being made of possible needed new theatres has already indicated that the number will be beyond the ability of exhibitors to meet with equipment now available.

Clark in West for Decree Soundings

Los Angeles, Feb. 20.—Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark, completing a series of Western field conferences on consent decree sentiment among independent exhibitors, left here by plane yesterday for Dallas and will arrive in Washington tomorrow.

En route to the Coast, Clark talked with representatives of theatre groups in Texas and the Southwestern states and yesterday he met here with

(*Continued on page 7*)

Secrecy on New Decree Is Deplored by MPTOA

Speaking out against the secrecy imposed by the Department of Justice on the distributors' proposals for an amended consent decree, which kept them from the trade press and, therefore, the "rank-and-file" exhibitor, the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, in a bulletin signed by Ed Kuykendall, president, and released here at the weekend, termed the resultant situation as "unfortunate but perhaps significant."



Ed Kuykendall

The bulletin observes that the pro-

(*Continued on page 8*)

MGM Sales and War Meet March 11-15

M-G-M will hold a conference of its division, district and branch managers at the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, March 11-15. All phases of distribution, not only as it applies to M-G-M, but also the company's War Activities' responsibility to the Government during the emergency, will be discussed. Progress of War Activities in each section of the country will be a highlight of the conference.

It was pointed out that the meetings will not take the shape of a sales meeting, but rather a business conference where the company's distribution relations with the Government will be given the same importance as the company's business with exhibitors.

No Paper Tomorrow, Home Offices Closed

***Motion Picture Daily* will not be published tomorrow, Feb. 22, Washington's Birthday, a legal holiday.**

The film business here will be at a standstill during the holiday, with home offices shutting for the entire day. Theatres, however, are preparing for record crowds, weather permitting, with practically all going to extra performances and increased admissions.

Personal Mention

NATE BLUMBERG, Universal president, and CLIFF WORK, vice-president and general manager in charge of production, are expected in New York this week.

•

RICHARD (DICK) CONNORS, Albany, N. Y., correspondent for MOTION PICTURE DAILY, has arrived at Camp Upton, Long Island, for Army indoctrination.

•

MONA REILLY, secretary to NATE BLUMBERG and JOHN J. O'CONNOR at Universal, and FRANCIS LEVIN, secretary to WILLIAM A. SCULLY, have left for a Florida vacation.

•

BEN GRIEFER, managing director of the Paramount and Adams Theatres, Newark, and MRS. GRIEFER are the parents of a son, JAMES CHARLES, born here in the Polyclinic Hospital.

•

VIRGINIA SEQUIN, head of publicity for 20th Century-Fox in Chicago, and DOROTHY MURRAY, her sister, are visiting their parents in Miami.

•

RALPH DAIGH, Fawcett Publications' editorial director, has left New York to spend two weeks at the Hollywood studios.

•

MARGARET MONTEZ of the Universal Oklahoma City branch, has enlisted in the Marines and will report at New River, N. C., on March 1.

•

M/SGT. GEORGE T. FLYNN, former booker in the Universal Cleveland exchange, is now in the British Isles with the U. S. Army.

•

WILLIAM PINE and WILLIAM THOMAS, Paramount producers, are due in New York today from Hollywood.

•

PAUL SADZECK, Universal exchange booker in Chicago, will report to the Navy Wednesday.

•

GEORGE SINGER, maintenance head of Warner Theatres in Chicago, will report to the Army on Wednesday.

•

HARRY GOLD, United Artists Eastern division manager, was in Detroit on company business over the weekend.

•

MAX ARNOW, Columbia production executive, is in town from Hollywood on company business.

•

CHARLES AARON, M-G-M Kansas City office manager, will report at Ft. Leavenworth for Army service today.

•

E. M. SAUNDERS, M-G-M assistant general sales manager, is expected back from the Coast Thursday.

•

HAL B. WALLIS, Warner producer, is due to arrive in New York today from Hollywood.

•

GEORGE CHENNAULT of the Universal Dallas exchange has enlisted in the Marines.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE brief covering an amended consent decree prepared by the conference of independent exhibitor organizations which met in Chicago early this month has been deprived of some force and effect by the secrecy imposed upon the distributors' decree proposals by the Department of Justice.

The distributors' "final" proposals were completed Jan. 20; were presented to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark on Jan. 25, and by Clark to exhibitor leaders on Jan. 27 and thereafter. The independent exhibitors' conference opened in Chicago Jan. 31 and deliberated in executive sessions throughout the week ending Feb. 5. The conference's drafting committee convened in Washington, Feb. 7, and presented its brief to Clark on Feb. 9. That is clear enough indication that independent exhibitors represented by their leaders at the Chicago meeting had not, at any time between Jan. 27 and the presentation of "their" views to Clark on Feb. 9, seen a copy of the distributors' decree proposals.

Nor did they have the opportunity of discussing the distributors' proposals with their representatives.

• •

The Department of Justice, meanwhile, had forbidden distributors or exhibitors to make public the contents of the distributors' decree proposals. In the interim, Clark discussed what he described as highlights of the proposals with trade press correspondents in Washington. He did not make available to the trade press or its representatives copies of the distributors' proposals for publication. He has not done so up to the time of this writing.

It is patent, therefore, that because of the Department's secrecy on the proposals, the exhibitors of the country, whose views Clark purportedly was inviting, had not, and still may not have seen a copy of the draft nor heard it discussed nor had it explained to them. Any and all of which could have been achieved by the simple expedient of giving the draft to the trade press for presentation to the exhibitors of the country.

We submit now that the decree analyses and proposals now before Clark from whatever source represent the views only of the men who authored them. The exhibitors of the country have not yet been heard from on the distributors' proposals. We have no concern with whether the views of the nation's exhibitors, when they are in, are for or against the distributors' proposals. That is completely immaterial. What matters is, that the body of exhibitors were not given an opportunity to view and decide for themselves on matters of the greatest importance to them and to their business.

• •

The MPTOA may be doing the job, in the face of the Department's secrecy, more soundly than did those other organizations which rushed to Washington post-haste with the decree views of their officers. So may the other organizations of unaffiliated exhibitors which have not yet been heard from. At least, enough time has elapsed to make it appear possible on the surface that those organizations have given or are giving their hundreds of members, rather than their few officers, the opportunity to read, digest and appraise the distributors' decree proposals before the verdict is signed, sealed and delivered to Washington.

It can be said, of course, that the representatives of the others were empowered to act for their members without consulting them. That action, however, might have been much more potent had the issues at stake been made clear to the electorate, either through their leaders or the trade press beforehand.

• •

We are convinced that in withholding from the trade press the information that rightfully belonged to the exhibitors of the country—and the unorganized ones can get it in no other way—the Department of Justice defeated its own purposes. We are dismayed that more exhibitor leaders have not realized this and spoken out against it. It is to the credit of Van A. Nomikos, Chicago independent circuit operator, that his voice alone among exhibitor organization men, has been raised in protest against the disservice done the exhibitor. We are dismayed, too, that within the trade press no firm protest has been registered.

The trade press, let it be remembered, as well as the organization official, can be the voice of the exhibitor.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 20

DAVE BERSHON, California theatre chairman of the War Finance committee, has announced that 117 Southern California theatres went over the top in the "Bond for Every Seat" drive with total sales of $7,750,000. Fifty-seven other houses are expected to reach their quota by the end of the drive, Feb. 29, with $7,000,000 additional bond sales.

•

Jack Flynn, M-G-M Central division sales manager, left here at the weekend for San Francisco. He will return to Chicago at the end of the month.

•

RKO has purchased "Strange Identity," an original by May Nosick, who will be co-director with Arnold H. Phillips. The company also announced "Fiesta," a Leo McCarey production starring Bing Crosby.

•

"No Escape," an original melodrama by Owen Francis, has been purchased by Pine-Thomas, according to a Paramount announcement.

•

Dudley Nichols, RKO producer-director, left over the weekend for Wapakoneta, Ohio, where his father, Grant B. Nichols, is critically ill.

•

Martin Mooney, PRC story editor, has left for Chicago for conferences on "Mother Cabrini." Vice-President Leon Fromkess will join him Wednesday, and they will both return Feb. 28.

Gov't Cannot Collect Louis Kaufman Fine

Efforts of the Government to collect a fine of $10,000 from Louis Kaufman, former business manager of the Newark Local of operators, have been fruitless, Asst. U. S. Attorney Martin Klein announced at the weekend. Kaufman and six former members of the Capone gang in Chicago were convicted recently of extorting more than $1,000,000 from the industry.

Klein said that he has examined Kaufman on several occasions but could locate no asset which the Government could attach. In the event that a final examination shows that Kaufman actually is penniless, he will be required to sign a statement to that effect, Klein said, or serve an additional short prison term.

Larry Kent Follows Skouras to London

Larry Kent, executive assistant to Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, left over the weekend for London. While there, he will assist Skouras, who is en route to London, in the study of 20th-Fox's post-war possibilities in both Great Britain and Europe, arranging for British production and conferring with J. Arthur Rank, British film industry leader, on the affairs of Gaumont-British, in which the company has an interest.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 19[illegible] by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10[illegible]

The U. S. GOVERNMENT presents

WITH THE MARINES AT TARAWA

THE REAL THING AT LAST . . .

Actual, living pictures of the battle that has been talked about, written about, wondered about by every man, woman and child in America old enough to read or listen to the radio . . .

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NO PUNCHES PULLED . . . NO GORY DETAILS OMITTED . . .



IT HITS THE HEART LIKE A TWO TON BLOCK BUSTER!

A TWO-REEL FEATURETTE IN TECHNICOLOR

Photographed by Combat Photographers of the Second Marine Division

Distributed by UNIVERSAL for War Activities Committee of Motion Picture Industry

'Curie' Still Paces Chicago; Gets $35,000

CHICAGO, Feb. 20. — Ideal seasonal weather following last week's blizzard brought increased patronage to loop theatres. In its fifth week at the State-Lake "Madame Curie" again took top single run receipts with $35,500. "Girl Crazy" was second with $29,000 at the United Artists.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19:

"Jack London" (U. A.)
APOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average, $11,400)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
CHICAGO — (3,850) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Stage: Dean Murphy, Harry Cool. Gross: $49,000. (Average, $51,000)
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"The City That Stopped Hitler" (Para.)
GARRICK — (1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average, $9,100)
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th loop week. Gross: $11,000. (Average, $9,100)
"Career Girl" (PRC)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days. Stage: Marion Hutton, Clyde Lucas band. Gross: $26,000. (Average, $24,700)
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
PALACE — (2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average, $24,000)
"Destination Tokyo" (W. B.)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $21,000. (Average, $20,400)
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
STATE-LAKE — (2,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $35,500. (Average, $29,000)
"Gang's All Here" (20th-Fox) 3 days, 3rd week
"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M) 4 days
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $29,000. (Average, $20,200)
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.) 2 days, 4th week
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.) "Revenge of the Zombies" (Mono.) 5 days
WOODS — (1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average, $10,000)

Johnston Sees U. S. World Film Leader

"The end of the war will find the United States established as never before as undisputed leader in motion picture markets of the world," according to W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, who is here from Hollywood on a visit to the company's Eastern branches.

"While the making of films in most parts of the world has come to a virtual standstill," Johnston pointed out, "American studios are operating at full capacity and turning out the best pictures in their history. When hostilities cease there will ensue an unprecedented demand for films, and producers of the United States will have an immense backlog of products on hand."

Johnston added that Monogram's foreign department has plans for the resumption of European activities on an enlarged scale.

Confer with Treasury On Bond Sale Result

Charles P. Skouras, industry chairman of the 4th War Loan Drive, and his drive aides, B. V. Sturdivant and F. H. Ricketson, were in Washington over the weekend conferring with War Finance Division officials of the Treasury on final results of the drive.

They are expected to return to their posts with Fox West Coast Theatres late this week.

Review

"The Curse of the Cat People"

(RKO Radio)

RKO started out to capitalize on its exploitable title, "The Cat People," but somewhere along the line changed its mind. Consequently, "The Curse of the Cat People" emerges, instead of a shocker, as a fanciful tale for children with supernatural overtones, highlighted by the shining performance of little Ann Carter as a sensitive, highly-imaginative child. Miss Carter is definitely a "find"—the answer to any exhibitor's desires for new faces.

Exhibitors should not stress the title nor play up any "Cat People" horror elements, for they are far too few and too ineffective. Rather they should point a message to children. If the horror fans are attracted on the straight basis of the title they will feel that they have been defrauded.

Kent Smith and Jane Randolph are Ann's parents, and Smith, whose first wife was Simone Simon, whose strange beliefs caused her destruction, worries that his daughter might be similarly tainted. Little Ann, through the use of a ring given her by Julia Dean, a crazed and aging actress, invokes the spirit of Miss Simon, who befriends her. Ann one day wanders out in a snow storm in search of her "friend" and is only saved from the enmity of Elizabeth Russell, the actress' jealous daughter, by her friendly "spirit."

Val Lewton produced with imagination, while Gunther V. Fritsch and Robert Wise directed. DeWitt Bodeen wrote the screenplay.

Running time, 70 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

CHARLES RYWECK

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Tokyo', 'Oklahoma' Tie in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 20.—"Destination Tokyo" at the State and "In Old Oklahoma" at the Orpheum appeared headed for a dead heat, with an indicated $12,000 draw each.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19:

"North Star" (RKO)
LYRIC—(1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $5,200).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,000).
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
GOPHER—(998) (35c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,500).
"In Old Oklahoma" (Rep.)
ORPHEUM—(2,800) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Adventures of Tartu" (M-G-M)
WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,200. (Average: $2,300).
"Klondike Kate" (Col.) 4 days
"The Underdog" (PRC) 4 days
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with mid-week change. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $2,500).

Skouras Bond Drive Dinner Here Tonight

Fifty leaders of the industry's 4th War Loan Drive will attend an "appreciation" dinner being given by Charles P. Skouras, national chairman, at the 21 Club tonight. Guests will be members of Ned Depinet's distributors' committee, War Activities officials and the 12 "Flying Bondsmen" who toured to coordinate work in the field during the campaign's closing days.

In charge of the dinner are Skouras, F. H. Ricketson, B. V. Sturdivant, A. J. Krappman, Seymour Peiser, Sam Shain and Morris Kinzler.

'Luis Rey' at Capitol

"The Bridge of San Luis Rey," Benedict Bogeaus's initial production for United Artists, will have its New York premiere at the Capitol on March 2, following a three-week run of M-G-M's "Song of Russia."

Phila. IATSE Kills Overtime Settlement

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—Film Exchange Employees Union Local B71A here has rejected the proposal that local exchanges go on a 40-hour week plus four hours overtime, marking the first known instance of such action by a local since Joseph Walsh, IATSE president, effected an interim settlement covering "backroom" employes in film exchange centers, thus averting a strike in New York and elsewhere last week.

Chicago Projectionists Follow N. Y. Pattern

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—Starting Monday, members of Local B-45 will take advantage of the opportunity to work more than 40 hours a week, duplicating the New York B-51 terms of settlement, instead of striking, it was announced here by Sam Lamansky, business manager of this "backroom" union. The settlement allows the opportunity to work four hours on Saturdays at overtime rates.

However, members are mourning over the $35,000 that was expected to be dispursed as the aggregate of backpay due from the majors, if the War Labor Board would have approved a pay increase. The estimate was based on a proposed 10 percent rise, retroactive to Dec. 1, 1943.

SAG Answers New Warner Complaint

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—The Screen Actors Guild has filed a demurrer to Warners' amended complaint in the studio's action seeking an injunction against the Guild's application of Rule 33 to talent for the studio's "Hollywood Canteen," which was abandoned.

Warners first sought damages and an injunction for the Guild's stand that players must be fully compensated for appearing in the production, but subsequently dropped its request for damages. The Guild's demurrer attacks the legality of the amended complaint.

15% Increase for N.Y. Exchange Workers

Wage increases of 15 per cent, retroactive, for 105 front office employes in New York exchanges of Loew's, 20th Century-Fox and United Artists, represented by the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, have been approved by the Regional War Labor Board. The order results from SOPEG's application to the WLB for "determination" of dispute with the three companies on new contract terms.

Previously SOPEG had defeated IATSE in a National Labor Relations Board election, held on Feb. 5, 1943, after a long battle over union representation during which SOPEG charged the companies with collective bargaining discrimination in favor of IATSE when the latter had contracts with the companies covering front office exchange employes nationally.

Increase Retroactive

A retroactive date of May 6, 1943, was set on a 15 per cent general increase to all of the employes. It is further retroactive to Sept., 1942, in the case of Loew's and 20th Century-Fox and to Dec., 1942, in the case of United Artists, for 12½ per cent.

The companies and SOPEG were ordered to work out a system of job classifications and evaluations with the RWLB appointing an arbitrator or panel to determine the issue if the parties fail to reach an agreement within 30 days.

The RWLB also awarded SOPEG a maintenance-of-membership clause and the right to arbitrate all disputes, with the New York State Mediation Board as arbitrator.

The board's order is an "interim" one pending determination at a board hearing Feb. 25 of SOPEG's request for a dues checkoff by the companies. The companies have the right to petition the NLRB for review of the regional board's order within 15 days.

MPOE Absorbing 'U' Home Office Workers

On April 1, 150 Universal home office "white collarites," members of the American Federation of Office Employes, Local 20940, will have their membership in that union transferred to the Motion Picture Office Employes Local 23169, AFL, in accordance with instructions issued by AFL officials, it is learned.

MPOE represents over 600 office workers in the Warner home office and affiliated companies. It is now negotiating with Paramount for 25 white collarites of Paramount Sound News. Office workers in the home offices of the other major film companies are represented by Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO.

Shuford to Coast to Confer with Gillham

Stanley Shuford, Paramount advertising manager, left New York at the weekend for Hollywood where he will confer with Robert Gillham, advertising-publicity director, on plans for ad campaigns on "The Hitler Gang," "Going My Way" and Cecil B. DeMille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell." He is expected to return here in about three weeks.

A MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN EXHIBITORS

to the Red Cross

We in the American Motion Picture Industry, all of us, are keenly and constantly aware of our patriotic duty. And willingly we meet it. But all that we do — as often as called upon — is still small in measure when compared with our fighting sons who are giving their last measure of devotion.

Yes, there was a lot of hard work in the March of Dimes and in the Fourth War Loan and all the others. But the war goes on and we want to go on helping.

. . . so bring on the Motion Picture Industry's Red Cross Week, March 23 — 29.

We know what the Red Cross means to our Boys. Those Boys never say "no" when they've a job to do. The Red Cross never says "no" when they've a job to do. We Exhibitors won't say "no" to the job we've got to do.

WAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

JOSEPH BERNHARD, CHAIRMAN RED CROSS WEEK

Monogram Has 18 Backlog Features

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 20. — With this week's completion of "Detective Kitty O'Day," starring Jean Parker, Monogram will have completed the greatest backlog of unreleased pictures in its history, a total of 18.

They include: "Johnny Doesn't Live Here Any More," starring Simone Simon; "Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" and "Murder in the Fun House," with Sidney Toler; "Voodoo Man" and "Return of the Ape Man," starring Bela Lugosi; "Million Dollar Kid," "Follow the Leader" and "Block Busters," East Side Kids stories with Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall, Gabriel Dell and Billy Benedict.

Musical films include: "Lady, Let's Dance," starring Belita; "Sweethearts of the U.S.A.," with Una Merkel, Parkyakarkus and Donald Novis; "The Sultan's Daughter," starring Ann Corio; "Hot Rhythm," with Dona Drake and Robert Lowery.

Westerns are: "Partners of the Trail" and "Law Men," with Johnny Mack Brown and Raymond Hatton; and "Arizona Whirlwind," "Outlaw Trail" and "Sonora Stagecoach," with Hoot Gibson, Bob Steele and Chief Thundercloud.

Claims MGM Product Was Barred to Marks

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—Leo Saulkins, testifying in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust trial here at the week-end charged that when he was booker for Marks Brothers Theatres in 1928 he was told by the late Felix Mendelsohn, then M-G-M branch manager, that he had orders from New York not to sell product to Marks houses because of Balaban and Katz contracts.

On a motion by Vincent O'Brien, attorney for Warner Bros., the jury was taken by U. S. Deputy Marshal John Clifford on a tour to study the comparative merits of the plaintiff's theatre and seven opposition houses.

U. S. Aids Majors to Unfreeze $2,000,000

The State Department is understood to be interceding now on behalf of film companies here to help them obtain the "unfreezing" of almost $2,000,000 in impounded sales revenue now held in China and North Africa.

The distributors have not received any remittances from rentals in China for three months. Prior to that they were receiving 50 per cent of revenue obtained there. No revenue has come from North Africa since Allied troops landed there in Nov., 1942, but the companies have continued to service the market.

Minneapolis Houses Raise Price Scales

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 20.—Three subsequent-run, independent theatres: Bill Frank's Boulevard, Ben Friedman's Edina and Volk Brothers' Nile, have increased admission prices from a 30- to 35-cent top in a move that is expected to become citywide and also spread to St. Paul independents.

Some exhibitors, however, are holding up in the hope that Minnesota Amusement Co. will join the nickel-increase movement.

Off the Antenna

"TELEVISION is a service ready for public use, a medium of presenting news, entertainment, education and sales appeal directly to the home," E. W. Engstrom, research director for RCA Laboratories, Princeton, N. J., told the American Marketing Association at a "Radio-in-Wartime" luncheon at the Hotel Sheraton here late last week. Engstrom placed television alongside of FM broadcasting and radio facsimile recorders as definite possibilities for early expansion in the post-war period.

Glen Bannerman has been renamed head of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters. . . . How television of the future might cover or supplement the news will be demonstrated to members of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association by General Electric in Schenectady on April 28 at the close of the publishers' annual convention in New York. . . . Delegates representing Mutual affiliates from Coast to Coast have been invited to attend the network's conferences on programs, sales, merchandising and station service, in New York on March 20-22. . . . Mutual has added two more affiliates, KFJB in Marshalltown, Ia., and KROS in Clinton, Ia., bringing the total of affiliates to 220. . . .

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Purely Personal: *Michael Sweeney has been appointed to Blue Network's spot sales department. . . . Sid Eiges is pinch-hitting for NBC press chief John McKay while the latter is in Florida. . . . Ralph P. Campbell has been appointed administrative assistant to Clarence L. Menser, NBC vice-president in charge of programs. . . . William James Brown has been named WABC sales manager. . . . Roger W. Clipp, executive vice-president of WFIL in Philadelphia has been elected president of the station. . . . Philip F. Frank has joined the sales promotion department of the Blue Network. . . . Robert Post is in charge of salesmen in the newly-opened Blue sales office in Pittsburgh. . . . G. Joseph Porter has joined WOR as an account executive. . . . Gilbert Chase, supervisor of music for NBC's Inter American University of the Air has accepted membership on the State Department's advisory committee on music. . . . Radio actor Jackson Beck has been signed by Pathe to appear in a series of shorts and newsreels. . . . Felix Greenfield, WMCA's "Man of Magic" is a member of the Warner publicity department. . . .*

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Program Notes: United Artists' radio department is preparing a radio manual which will include a special series of transcriptions for service to program directors, radio editors and station commentators of Alaska marking the first time, according to the company, that this area will be provided with over-all Hollywood coverage. . . . World premiere of UA's "Voice in the Wind" in Camden on Feb. 26 for war workers will be heralded on RCA's "What's New" program on the Blue Network the same evening . . . "It Pays to be Ignorant" will take over the spot occupied by the "Philip Morris Playhouse." . . . New CBS Norman Corwin program will have its premiere on March 7; title of the first program is "Movie Primer," described as a satire on the film industry based on material gathered by Corwin during his year in Hollywood. . . .

Montreal Rail Strike Cuts Theatre Crowds

MONTREAL, Feb. 20.—Railway operators in Montreal staged a repeat performance of their strike of last year when they walked out here Friday because of union differences. Although afternoon performances of new film programs were unaffected, evening performances had very poor attendance as most work-weary Montrealers spent the evening plugging several city miles to their homes in the residential areas.

Plagiarism Suit on RKO's "Ghost Ship"

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—Charging plagiarism in the production of "Ghost Ship," Samuel R. Goldberg and Norbert Faulkner have filed suit against RKO, Val Lewton, Leo Mittler and Donald Henderson Clarke.

The complainants, seeking $150,000, allege theft of the plot and parts of their original story, "Bermuda Blow," which they claim was submitted to the studio in 1941.

Bennett Reception

Producers Releasing Corp. will give a press party at the Waldorf Astoria this afternoon for Constance Bennett, who has joined the company as a producer-star. Leon Fromkess, vice-president in charge of production, will preside.

Renown Buys 25 Roach Reissues

Renown Pictures, Ltd., of London, has acquired the United Kingdom reissue rights to seven Hal Roach features originally released through United Artists. The films include: "Of Mice and Men," "Saps at Sea," "Captain Caution," "Turnabout," "Roadshow," "Housekeeper's Daughter" and "Zenobia."

Negotiations were handled by Walter Gould, foreign manager for United Artists, and Roach's Eastern representative, Grace Rosenfield.

South America to Get Mexican Films

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 20.—Films Mundiales and Clasa Films, two leading production companies here, have opened exchanges in Colombia and Venezuela, starting an expansion program in South America. Jaime Urbina, former Columbia manager here, will manage both exchanges.

Pictures will also be dubbed in Portuguese for Brazil.

Pickford Cancels 'Miss'

Mary Pickford, who first offered $355,000 and a percentage for screen rights to "Junior Miss," reported at the weekend that she had withdrawn her bid because of "the nature of restrictions and limitations" which the owners of the play sought to impose.

'Song' Opening Set for 30 Cities

Twentieth Century-Fox's "The Song of Bernadette," currently at advance admissions in New York and Los Angeles, will have 30 roadshow openings which began over the weekend and will run through March 24.

Third opening took place in Cincinnati Saturday, with the fourth today in Baltimore. Others are: Long Beach and San Diego, Cal., Feb. 6; Miami, Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma, Ariz., and Bakers Field and Santa Barbara, Cal., all on Feb. 23; Philadelphia, Tulsa, Feb. 24; Denver, Feb. 29; Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco, Buffalo, March 2; Kansas City, March 10; Fresno, Cal., March 12; Harrisburg and Reading, March 15; Washington, Milwaukee, St. Louis, March 16; Oakland, Cal., and Indianapolis, March 17; Stockton, Cal., March 19; Sacramento and Louisville, March 23 and Portland, Ore., March 24.

Springer Makes 12 Managerial Changes

J. R. Springer, Century Circuit general manager here, has made the following changes in personnel; with Jack Weinstein, Brooklyn division manager, leaving for the Army, his territory will be absorbed by Edward Freiberger, Leonard Freund and L. W. McEachern; Ruth Beckerman, formerly assistant manager at the Elm, has been named manager; Cortland Clarkson, manager of the Plaza, has been transferred to the Strand, Rockville Centre, in the same capacity, replacing McKendree Williams who leaves for the Army.

John Hofeditz, former assistant manager at the Grove, now is manager of the Plaza, with Charlotte Yotte promoted to assistant manager of the Grove; William Kellam, assistant at the Huntington, has been transferred to the Mayfair; Owen Kaufman, formerly assistant at the Mayfair, now is assistant at the Elm; James McNally is the new assistant at the Huntington.

Detroit Would Raise Theatre License 50%

DETROIT, Feb. 20.—A 50 percent increase in the cost of city license fees for operation of motion picture theatres is included in a budget recommendation submitted to Mayor Edward J. Jeffries by Comptroller Charles G. Oakman.

Theatre license fees now ranging from $25 to $100 would be increased to $35 to $150.

Hoffberg Gets 'Norway'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The Royal Norwegian Information Service has closed with Hoffberg Productions to distribute "Norway Replies," official report of that country's war activities. F. Herrick Herrick produced the film, with a musical score written by Jack Shaindlain and narration by Ed Thorgerson, Alois Havrilla and Ben Grauer. The film will have its world premiere on Friday, Feb. 25, at the Stanley Theatre here.

Korda to New York

LONDON, Feb. 20.—Sir Alexander Korda left here Friday for New York in connection with the script of his first production for M-G-M.

5 1st Runs Run All Night for Soldiers

San Francisco, Feb. 20.—Fox-West Coast is going all-out to accommodate service men and defense workers unable to attend theaters during regular hours, and is now operating four of its downtown first-run houses on an all-night policy. The big Warfield and the equally spacious Paramount are now on the round-the-clock plan, joining the St. Francis and the State, first-run moveover houses. The Esquire, operated by the Blumenfeld circuit, also operates all night.

Canada Trade Sets Up Governing Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

exhibition of films with discouragement for any control of business operations by federal or provincial governments, presumably other than censorship, public safety, licensing and taxation measures generally recognized as a legislative function.

The trade conference was voted a genuine success, with all interests agreeing that the situation is ripe for the advancement of cooperative action. Those attending include in addition to Mason, A. W. Perry and Louis Rosenfield, for the distributors; B. C. Salamis of Montreal, Henry Falk of Toronto, and W. P. Mahon of Prince Albert, Sask., for the independents; Morris Stein for Famous Players, Colonel John A. Cooper of the Motion Picture Distributors Association, and E. H. Wells, secretary of the Film Board of Trade.

Clark in West for Decree Soundings

(*Continued from page* 1)

Robert Poole, executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners.

"The independents have submitted their suggestions, including changes desired in the consent decree proposals advanced by the majors," Clark said upon his arrival here. "I will study these upon my return to Washington before calling further decree conferences."

M-G-M Sets 15 Shorts For Next 2 Months

M-G-M reported recently that it will release 15 short subjects during the next two months, representing 25 per cent of the current season's program. In production now are "Easy Life," two-reel special, and John Nesbitt's "Dreams"; "The Immortal Blacksmith" will go into production next week. Lead-off cartoon for the 1944 season will be Fred Quimby's "The Zoot Cat," first of the new "Tom and Jerry" series, scheduled for release Feb. 26.

Loew Financing Cowan

David L. Loew is reported to be financing the production of Lester Cowan's "Tomorrow the World" and Ernie Pyle's "Here Is Your War," which will be his first two for United Artists.

Short Subject Reviews

"Tails of the Border"

(*Paramount*)

The "Speaking of Animals" series should gain an even larger following with this release. Judging from results, Jerry Fairbanks, who makes these shorts for Paramount, has an insight into canine life. The dialogue is "spoken" by the dogs. Scene is a Mexican border cafe, frequented by village dogs. The woofy bartender serves up hot Tequila "shots" and equally sharp wise-cracks. A couple of dancing dogs and a canine "vocalist" provide entertainment. The hilarious climax is the execution of a Conga routine by the dogs. Dialogue is clever, direction is excellent and, all-in-all, it is one of the most entertaining shorts in months. Running time, 8½ mins.

"Into the Clouds"

(*Warner Bros.*)

The work of the unsung Army Quartermaster Corps is brought to the screen in a dramatic story of the testing of new equipment for the Ski Patrol. The camera follows an expedition to the peak of Mount McKinley where the equipment, and men, are subjected to rigid tests in intense sub-stratosphere cold. The film was neatly handled and the results are good. There are excellent shots of the scenic splendor as viewed from three miles in the air. Narration by Lou Marcelle is excellent. Running time, 10 mins.

"G. I. Fun"

(*Paramount*)

Here is an entertaining subject, of primary interest to men and women in service, but entertaining also to civilians in its presentation of what service people do when on furlough. There are shots of boys and girls stationed in the East, touring New York's high spots, and of those stationed in the Pacific area visiting San Francisco, while those down South visit Florida's Cypress Gardens. "G. I. Fun" represents good treatment of light and entertaining material. Running time, 9 mins.

"World's Youngest Aviator"

(*Universal*)

This release in the "Personoddities" series feature a 10-year-old boy who flies a plane; a house at sea, numbered 1 Atlantic Ocean; an old collection of American stage coaches; mailman who travels his route by boat and a child in Jacksonville who has a squirrel and a cat for pets, both raised by Mother Tabby cat. Interesting subject and good commentary. Running time, 9 mins.

"Baby Puss"

(*M-G-M*)

Tom and Jerry cartoons continue among the best. In this one Tom Cat lives a life of luxury, lolling around in a baby-dress and bonnet and literally feeding on the cream-of-the-milk bottle. Jerry, the alley cat, calls a meeting of local tramp cats and they launch on a "beat-Tom-to-a-pulp" campaign. They do, too. Musical score is especially good. Cartoon is cleverly done and amusing throughout. Running time, 8 mins.

"Mrs. Lowell Thomas, Fur Farmer"

(*Universal*)

A bright spot in Universal's "Personoddities." Mrs. Lowell Thomas is featured at her Pawling, N. Y., farm, where she raises fox and mink. Other interesting Americans include a man who has a hobby of "playing clown" with costume, make up and the rest, for shut-ins; a pharmicist who specializes in prescriptions for chickens and a man who makes odd clocks out of wood. Subjects are well handled and the commentary is good. Running time 9 mins.

"The U. S. Merchant Marine Cadet Band"

(*Warner Bros.*)

Lt., J. G., Ted Weems puts the Maritime band through its paces in a stirring program of martial melody. Weems' technique with a military band is as good as his efforts with his pre-war swing orchestra. In one of the lighter moments of the stiff cadet training period, he leads a dance band and introduces a promising new song entitled "Girl Behind the Counter." Bobby Connolly directed and has turned out an entertaining short. Running time, 10 mins.

"Basket Wizards"

(*RKO-Pathe*)

The snappy hoopster squad from Rhode Island State College is the subject of Pathe's "Basket Wizards." For the sports fans it's extremely interesting; for the average film-goer it's at least exciting. Frederic Ullman, Jr., producer, and Joseph Walsh, director, have handled the subject well and Harry W. Smith has captured some fine fast-action shots of Rhode Island's game with St. John's of Brooklyn in Madison Square Garden. Albert Grobe did the commentary. Running time, 8 mins.

"Sweet Swing"

(*Universal*)

Featuring Eddie Miller's band, "Sweet Swing" presents a quarter-hour of "sweet and hot" rhythms for jive fans. Starred are Ray Eberle, Martha Tilton and the Star Dusters. Songs include "Once in a While," "I've Got Sixpence" and "Put Your Arms Around Me." Running time, 15 mins.

"Amazing Metropolis"

(*Universal*)

Another treatment of the city of Hyderabad, India, shows some good shots of its modern hospitals and progressive educational institutions and there is interesting commentary on its Liberalism policy and practice. Running time, 9 mins.

"Water Wisdom"

(*M-G-M*)

Wherein Pete Smith demonstrates the art of life-saving. This film is educational and interesting. The inimitable Smith provides a comedy touch which adds much to entertainment value. Running time, 9 mins.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Feb. 20

PRODUCER William Perlberg will put four new pictures on the stages at 20th Century-Fox in the three-month period between May 1 and July 31. Three of them, in Technicolor, are "Where Do We Go From Here," scheduled to roll May 1; "Diamond Horseshoe" and "State Fair," set for July starts. The fourth, scheduled to roll June 1, is "Claudia and David," in black-and-white.

•

Walter Lantz, Universal Cartoon producer, plans two new "Woody Woodpecker" subjects. They are "Ski for Two" and "Screwball of Fire" . . . Republic's first for the Red Ryder series will go before the cameras Feb. 26 with Wild Bill Elliott, Bobby Blake and George Gabby Hayes . . . Kenneth Macgowan has checked in at 20th-Fox to read scripts for his next production . . . "Jungle Woman" went before the cameras at Universal with Acquanetta, Evelyn Ankers and J. Carroll Naish in top roles.

•

Martha O'Driscoll, who recently entertained the Aleutian troops, has a large comedy role in producer Warren Wilson's "Slick Chicks," now in production at Universal. Both producer and star recently were handed new contracts by the studio. . . . Arthur Hornblow will film several sequences for "Weekend at the Waldorf" on the spot in New York. . . . Warners have assigned Dennis Morgan to the male lead opposite Ida Lupino in "The Very Thought of You." . . . Universal picked up the option of Robert Siodmak, currently directing Deanna Durbin in "Christmas Holiday."

•

Leon Z. Surmelian, fan magazine writer, has sold a novel, "Prelude to Life," to E. P. Dutton & Co., for which William Saroyan wrote the introduction. Surmelian doesn't believe it's picture material, he says, but there's already talk of such possibilities here. . . . Arthur Freed will put "Ziegfeld Follies," Technicolor musical starring Fred Astaire and Lucille Bremer, before the cameras at M-G-M March 15. . . . Sonja Henie has arrived to prepare for her star role in "It's a Pleasure," which David Lewis is producing for International. . . . Clifford Sanforth has signed Howard Hill for a role in "Son of Robin Hood."

Hart Tribute March 5

A show in memory of the late Lorenz Hart, songwriting collaborator of Richard Rodgers, will be staged March 5 at the Majestic Theatre here by Ascap and the American Theatre Wing. Proceeds will go to the Armed Forces Master Records, Inc. Frank Sinatra, Gertrude Lawrence, Billy Gaxton and former Mayor James J. Walker will participate.

James Joy Dies

TORONTO, Feb. 20.—James R. Joy, veteran exhibitor here and owner of the Euclid and the Toronto for many years, died here at the weekend. He was prominent in independent exhibitor organization activity.

MPTOA Hits U. S. Secrecy On New Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

posed decree changes all would appear to improve the document but that the question remains whether "there is enough improvement to make it worth the effort."

Kuykendall explained in the bulletin that the MPTOA has not yet presented its decree views to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark because it has made copies of the distributors' proposals available to its members for study and is awaiting their reactions and reports before drafting a decree brief.

"It is unfortunate but perhaps significant," the MPTOA bulletin declares, "that the official text of the proposed new decree is not given out for publication so that the rank-and-file exhibitor has a chance to make his own analysis and appraisal. He will have to live under it for the next 10 years if it is eventually entered by the court, and it does seem he should have the text of the new decree to study and form his own opinions thereon."

Kuykendall points out that the complex, legalistic language of the new decree requires discussion and interpretation for the benefit of the majority of exhibitors.

The MPTOA bulletin poses the question whether any decree or related legalistic or legislative procedure is capable of solving the industry's fundamental problems.

"A very large number of exhibitors," the bulletin asserts, "after watching the meager results obtained in the past three years of the decree, believe the best thing the Department of Justice could do would be to throw both the consent decree and the present anti-trust suit out of the window and start in all over again with a more intelligent attempt to correct the real abuses and unfair competitive practices."

Hits Licensing Small Blocks

The bulletin describes the licensing of small blocks of films as the principal fault of the consent decree and the principal improvement proposed, the MPTOA declares, is the new cancellation formula. It contends that the retention of trade showings will force the distributors to continue sales in small blocks and will further increase film costs to the exhibitor.

"Its retention (trade showings) is probably the most destructive and disastrous feature of the new decree," the bulletin declares.

It asserts that the MPTOA has been on record with the Department of Justice and with the approval of its board of directors for a year on what it regards as the important decree issues. It lists them as: "Full season selling with adequate cancellation; organized local mediation of trade disputes and grievances; non-legalistic arbitration before local, industry-experienced arbitrators if mediation fails, and a simplified, standard exhibition contract to define and establish numerous fair competitive practices."

Exhibitors In All Areas In Dark On New Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

PICTURE DAILY employed no hand-picked list of exhibitors. It addressed typical theatre owners at random. It did, however, make a conscious effort to avoid interviewing either exhibitor organization officials or operators of large circuits, whether affiliated or independent, who solely through their organization or business connections might be expected to have had access to copies of the distributors' decree draft.

The sampling was an attempt to ascertain what the "average" exhibitor knows about the decree proposals. The answer is: Nothing.

More than 90 per cent of the exhibitors interviewed thus far, who were asked if they felt they would be better informed had not the Department of Justice caused the withholding of the decree proposals from the trade press, replied in the affirmative. Many were bitterly critical of the Department's policy and others blamed exhibitor organization officials for not having protested the policy in the first place.

Many of those interviewed expressed complete indifference on the whole subject of a consent decree or anything that might be contained in one. Their attitude was: "What's the use? Decrees don't change the price of film nor bring more patrons into the theatres."

The reason for the survey was to ascertain what purpose, if any, was served by the Department of Justice's policy of maintaining secrecy, insofar as the trade press with its thousands of exhibitor readers is concerned, on the decree proposals, particularly in view of repeated statements from the Department concerning its intention of bringing the proposals before the exhibitors of the nation.

Exhibitors' Reactions

Following are typical results obtained from metropolitan New York exhibitors. Others will be published in subsequent issues of MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

JACK ROCHELLE, *Park Theatre, Rockaway Park, L. I.*, indicated that he has seen some excerpts of the distributors' proposals "in a magazine, but not a draft of the decree." He stated: "I don't think it is what the independent exhibitor is looking for." Publicity in the trade press, he thought, would considerably expand his knowledge of the decree proposals. "All we're getting now," Rochelle said, "are bits and from these bits we're not getting anything." The Park is a second-run neighborhood house and is Rochelle's only theatre.

FRED CASTORF, *Osceola Theatre, South Bronx*, admitted that he had not seen a copy of the consent decree. "Could be," was his response as to whether trade press publicity would aid his understanding of the distributor proposals. The house is an independent, a third-run.

ALBERT FOX, *Bellmore, Bellmore, L. I.*, professed ignorance of the consent decree, saying: "We don't seem to follow it much." He said that trade press publicity on proposals would help to enlighten him, however. The theatre, an independent, is a last-run house situated on the South Shore.

JOHN FIORVANTI, *Dunellen Theatre, Dunellen, N. J.*, member of Jersey Allied, declared that he had not seen the decree nor been informed of its contents by Allied. He agreed that trade press publication would have given him a better understanding. His house is a third-run neighborhood house.

SAM WORMSER, *Opera House, New Brunswick, N. J.*, disclosed that a "rapid reading" of key points in the consent decree had been made by him in one of the trade journals. "Yes, I certainly do," was his answer to the question whether publication in the trade press would enhance his knowledge of decree proposals. "This is my only source of information." His house, on the fringe of the business section, is a first-run.

At a Total Loss

GUSTAF BENSON, *Forty-eighth Street Theatre, Manhattan,*

When queried about the distributors' consent decree proposals, Benson was at a total loss in answering any questions.

CHARLES ZINGALE, *Luna and Pioneer Theatres, Brooklyn*, declared that he has not seen the decree and has no interest in it.

PAUL MULLER, *Devon Theatre, Bronx*, said that he had not seen a copy of consent decree proposals. Publicity of the decree in the trade press would aid, he thought, in enabling him to understand the proposals. The Devon is a last-run house.

Disapproves Secrecy

EDWARD LACHMAN, *State Theatre, Boonton, N. J.*: Even though he has seen the decree and knows its contents thoroughly, Lachman believes the proposals should have been publicized within the industry in the trade press. Lachman, treasurer of N. J. Allied, however, said he is behind Tom Clark and is in full accord with Abram Myers, head of national Allied. He believes, however, that the industry should take care of its own problems and not "air its dirty linen in public." Lachman stated that he felt the decree has not, as yet, accomplished its intended objective—helping exhibitors. He believes, rather, that it has benefited the distributor and, for proof, suggested a cursory examination of financial statements of distributors—and then a perusal of exhibitors' records. Lachman's theatre is a first run house. He also owns the Lyceum, now closed.

EDWARD POLLOCK, *Strand Theatre, North Tarrytown, N. Y.*

"What is you opinion of the proposed revised consent decree?" inquired a MOTION PICTURE DAILY reporter.

"The WHAT decree," replied Edward Pollock, owner of the North Tarrytown Strand.

He had never seen it and didn't know what it was.

1,000 Will Attend Red Cross Breakfast

(*Continued from page* 1)

al chairman of the industry's campaign, is expected to emphasize the individual assistance which local theatre managers can give to the drive. The theatre manager, Bernhard pointed out Friday at a meeting with the New York breakfast committee, of which Rinzler is chairman, is the person upon whom final results depend, largely from his handling of the collections. A separate rally will be held later for New Jersey theatre managers.

Name Canadian Groups In Red Cross Drive

TORONTO, Feb. 20.—Col. John A. Cooper is chairman and R. W. Bolsted of Famous Players is vice-chairman of the motion picture war services committee to assist the Red Cross campaign in Canada next month. Trade representatives who will cooperate with Red Cross commissioners follow:

Ontario: R. W. Bolsted, T. J. Bragg, of Odeon; Gordon Lightstone, Paramount; N. A. Taylor and Herb Allen; Quebec: William Lester, Eugene Beaulac, W. J. Singleton and Hillis Cass; New Brunswick: Gordon Spencer and Lou McKenzie; Nova Scotia: T. J. Courtney, R. S. Roddick and M. E. Walker; Manitoba: R. D. Hurwitz and D. V. Rosen; Alberta: K. M. Leach, Matt Park and V. M. Skorey; British Columbia: Paul L. Nathanson, L. J. Bearg, Dave Griesdorf, R. McTavish and W. S. Jones.

MPTOA Favors Tax Defense Plan

MPTOA is prepared to cooperate with all other exhibitor organizations and segments in the formation of a national conference committee on taxation matters, an organizational bulletin released at the weekend declares.

The bulletin reports that MPTOA regional affiliates are now considering the proposal and will determine the national organization's final position on it in the near future. The need for such an organization, to deal with tax matters and assist local organizations, when needed, on taxation problems, was demonstrated in the recent attempt to impose a 30 per cent Federal admission tax, the bulletin points out. Activities of the joint exhibitor group would be restricted solely to problems involving unfair taxation of theatres, under the plan now before exhibitor groups.

Allied Committee in 'United Front' Study

The proposal for a "united front" of independent exhibitors' organizations to deal with future tax problems was considered here yesterday by Allied States' special taxation committee, appointed at the recent Chicago board meeting.

P. J. Wood is chairman of the group, which includes Maxwell A. Alderman and Harry H. Lowenstein. The committee will make its report to the Allied board later.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 37 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1944 | TEN CENTS

Canada Board Approves Self Government

Cooper, Falk to Draft Trade Constitution

TORONTO, Feb. 22.—Federal approval of the Canadian film industry's new machinery for self-government, adopted at distributor-exhibitor conciliation conferences here the weekend is seen in the revelation that the Wartime Prices and Trade Board "has given its sanction the plan to run our own business, solve our own problems, settle our own differences and regulate procedure," according to an industry spokesman here.

Thus the Canadian industry seems have accomplished in a comparatively short time what the industry in the United States has striven to do for years—better relations between exhibitors and distributors. One member the industry's policy-planning committee expressed the view that the option of harmonious relations had been inevitable under present wartime conditions.

The policy - planning committee

(Continued on page 14)

British Tax Boost Raises Budgets

The British excess profits tax which takes all profits of British producers above the 1936 average, is causing the latter to put more money into their films rather than accept the alternative of paying the tax, Phil Reisman, RKO vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, declared during an interview here on Monday. Reisman returned late last week from six weeks in England.

"British producers can now afford

(Continued on page 14)

Spyros Skouras in London; Sees Rank

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, arrived here from New York at the height of the Nazi air raid. He met last night with Arthur Rank to discuss 20th's stock interests in the Metropolis & Bradford Trust, which controls Gaumont.

Lord Rothmere, well known newspaper publisher, will give a reception for Skouras at Claridge's here on Wednesday.

Texas, Oklahoma, Oregon Need Theatres, Says OCR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Receipt of several more field agent reports indicate the need for new film theatres in a score more war-work communities, these in the Southwest, it was disclosed today by John Eberson, consultant to the Office of Civilian Requirements recreation division.

Emphasizing that the field reports are tentative, Eberson said applications for construction of new houses in localities mentioned would be considered, but must be accompanied by proof of the need of the community for additional facilities. Applicants also must show that they have available the booth equipment and seats for the houses they propose to build.

Airplane and other war production activities centered in Texas have created a need for additional houses at a number of points, including Dallas, Fort Worth, Beaumont, Borger, Buena Vista, Phillips City, Freeport, Grand Prairie, Sweeny and Port

(Continued on page 13)

Boasberg, Others Promoted by RKO

Charles Boasberg, RKO-Radio Eastern Central district manager and captain of the 1944 Ned Depinet Drive, has been appointed Metropolitan district manager in New York for the company. Boasberg succeeds Robert Wolff who will leave soon for England to become managing editor for RKO-Radio there.

Phil Hodes, member of the com-

(Continued on page 14)

Red Cross Meetings For All Key Cities; Chairmen Named

A series of nationwide Red Cross meetings for exhibitors, to be held in 31 exchange centers and designed to cover every part of the country, has been set for the two weeks starting February 28, Joseph Bernhard, national chairman of the industry's Red Cross campaign, has announced.

Among the industry executives who have volunteered to speak at the meetings are Ben Kalmenson, Sam Dembow, Si Fabian, Edward L. Alperson, Gradwell L. Sears, Francis S. Harmon, Ned E. Depinet, Ben Shlyen, Harry Brandt, Martin G. Smith and Harry M. Kalmine.

At a meeting to be held today in Bernhard's offices, the volunteers, with two others yet to be named, will be grouped in four units of three each and assigned territories. Local exhibitor chairmen will set the dates of their respective meetings, at which the traveling groups will outline the plan of theatre collection for Red Cross Week, March 23-29, discuss the special local angles for getting best results, and give such other assistance as may be required.

Regional exhibitor chairmen for the campaign are: Lou R. Golding, Albany; William K. Jenkins, Atlanta; Frank A. Hornig, Baltimore; Sam Pinanski, Boston; Al Bevan, Boston;

(Continued on page 14)

"The Purple Heart"

[*20th Century-Fox*]

Hollywood, Feb. 22

WITH no compromise and no relenting, "The Purple Heart" is a grim drama of atrocities inflicted by the Japanese on a crew of eight American flyers forced down in China after the Doolittle raid on Tokyo. A powerful motion picture emerges.

Darryl F. Zanuck's re-entry into active production following his Army service is a straight-line, unleavened re-enactment of official and presumed facts—a horrible story told with the dramatic integrity it deserves. The result is like a thunderbolt between the eyes, a visual form of shock which will stagger and shake the nerves of audiences which are to see it.

Commercially, the outcome is a puzzler. Those who are party to the theory that war pictures, like any other type, will prove smashingly successful if they are moulded with intelligence and force and built on a

(Continued on page 3)

'What Decree?' Small Theatre Operators Ask

Average Exhibitor Vague About New Proposal

The rank-and-file exhibitor either has only the most meager information or none at all, concerning the proposals of the five consenting companies for an amended industry decree, MOTION PICTURE DAILY's interviews with operators of small theatres continue to reveal.

A large majority of those interviewed expressed the conviction that they would be much better informed on the decree proposals if the Department of Justice had made the distributors' draft available to the trade press for publication.

Repeatedly, those interviewed pointed out that exhibitors who are not members of regional or national organizations have no other access, but through the trade press, to information on subjects such as the decree proposals. Many of those interviewed, moreover, even though they identified themselves as members of exhibitor organizations, said that the distribu-

(Continued on page 14)

Army Withholding Newsreel Pictures

More than half of the war footage being shot by American newsreel cameramen in England and Europe is not being released to American newsreels by Army authorities in Washington, Dave Oliver, Pathe war correspondent in the newsreel pool, revealed in an interview here on Monday, basing the statement on his experiences.

Oliver further stated that this un-

(Continued on page 13)

Congress May Act On Tax Bill Today

Washington, Feb. 22.—Congressional action on President Roosevelt's expected veto of the new revenue bill, of which the increased Federal admission tax is a part, is not likely to be taken until tomorrow because of the absence over the Washington's Birthday holiday of influential members of both Houses.

Personal Mention

DAVID BERNSTEIN, Loew's vice-president and treasurer, is expected to return to New York on March 13 from a vacation at Palm Beach.

•

RALPH G. BRANTON, Tri-States Theatres executive, is in town on company business.

•

KAY GAGER, head of ad sales at the 20th-Fox Chicago exchange, was married recently to LT. ED SCHRIEBER.

•

IRVING YERGIN of MORT BLUMENSTOCK'S publicity staff at Warner Bros. here, was married last week to NAOMI GRAY, artist.

•

HUGH OWEN, Paramount Eastern division manager, and DUKE CLARK, district manager, visited branch offices in Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Detroit recently.

•

JOHN J. MALONEY, M-G-M Central division sales manager, will leave today for Pittsburgh after a visit at the home office.

•

JOEL LEVY, Loew out-of-town booker, is back from a five-day tour of Ohio towns.

•

CHARLES F. DEESEN, assistant sales manager in M-G-M's Central division, has returned from a St. Louis visit.

•

CHARLOTTE SABIN, after a three-months' leave of absence, is back on the job as secretary to EDWIN AARON, M-G-M circuit sales head.

•

H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, has returned from a vacation at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

•

VIRGINIA ORR, former secretary to G. RALPH BRANTON of Tri-States circuit, Des Moines, and her husband, JOHN ORR, are the parents of a son, JOHN, JR., born last week.

•

IRVING MACK, owner of the Filmack Trailer Co., has returned to Chicago from New York.

•

HENRY W. KAHN, Chicago M-G-M sales manager, has announced the appointment of JOE FRIEDMAN to the sales staff.

•

L. S. STEIN, Chicago director of advertising for Warner theatres, has returned from Minneapolis where he attended the funeral of his father-in-law, I. SMILER.

•

JOSEPH BERNHEIMER of 20th Century-Fox's Washington office, and Ned BORD, assistant barker of that city's Variety Club, have been inducted into the Army.

•

JOSEPH M. SEIDER, president of Prudential Playhouses, is vacationing in Miami.

•

LOUIS FRISCH, vice-president of the Randforce Circuit, is in Florida on vacation.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Feb. 22

DOLLAR publicity is deplored, regretted and bemoaned. Resolutions, always the same, are dusted off, resurrected and re-entered upon the minutes. It's a regular procedure.

This keeps the record going, proves someone is thinking about things which ought to be thought about. Thereafter, all goes quiet on this Western front until resolution time, like the coming of the cherry blossoms, rolls around once more.

The source of this situation, of course, holds no secret and it baffles no one. It has to do with excitement over new deals struck, ambitious press agentry, conveniently faulty intentions and the ever present desire to outrun the other fellow.

■

A wide assortment of incidents merely tends to strengthen the reluctant observation which is that a halt, even if only a reasonable one, evidently is not to be.

There have been some pretty tall ones publicized in the past. Sound memories, for example, no doubt will recall one dealing with Constance Bennett. It goes back some years now and to that Warner deal when publicity, or maybe just headline restlessness, caused it to be thrown about that Miss Bennett was being paid $30,000 a week. It was a short-term deal, but no one bothered to get into that.

■

These last few days, however, brought one to light which appears to make pikers out of all predecessors. Like time, it might be argued that other matters march on, too.

In several Los Angeles chatter columns, it was reported Charles Coburn had been paid $25,000 by David O. Selznick for one day's work in "Since You Went Away." Reason seemed to have gone away along with other things.

Uncertain as to whether amazement or outrage ought to be the reaction, investigation appeared to be a reasonable forerunner of conviction. The trail turned out to be a fairly straight one.

■

Here are the circumstances:

Someone somewhere—identity delightfully vague, and maybe purposely so—presumably heard about the Coburn incident. It is understood an obliging agent, dutifully aware of market values in Hollywood and no doubt familiar with ways and means of maintaining them, presumably verified the report. As some columns are contrived in Hollywood where, incidentally, it is decidedly chilly these days, this evidently was proof sufficient to make a rumor a fact.

The story was published.

■

Our own ferreting, on the other hand, casts a slightly different glow. Unless there is fancy kidding being indulged, it appears Coburn was engaged for the final days of the picture; that, as it worked out, he finished in one day; that he was paid $10,000 in observance of the letter of a very limited contract as to time; that he holds himself in readiness, however, to return for additional scenes if this should be required.

Therefore, it turns out not to be $25,000 for one day's sweating, but a mere $10,000 stipulated for an engagement which thus far has been managed in one day. A decided difference, although ten thousand iron men impresses as impressive oats under any circumstances.

■

Blithely unconcerned with hawk-eyed legislators, an assortment of state budgets which find much nutrition in a soft touch and congressmen who do not like this business and say so, one might think some action would be forthcoming. One might think someone—perhaps the producer, but certainly not the agent, or the Industry Service Bureau which is so chilly on dollar publicity—would undertake to have some of the snarls neutralized.

Not so. Not so at all. There has been no known enterprise directed toward stemming potential damage. Not so far as these roving eyes have been able to discover it.

Ah, Hollywood!

■ ■

One of the permanent buildings at RKO serves a double purpose, not uncommon here. It is used for an assortment of exterior shots, name plates at the entrance indicating changing identity. Once a hospital, last week it was "Monument Apartments."

Permanent residents of the structure are RKO's producers. That is, as permanent as a producer in Hollywood ever can be.

Coming Events

Feb. 23—Maurice Bergman to address AMPA meeting, Hotel Edison, New York.

Feb. 23—Atlantic Coast section of the Society of M. P. Engineers meeting, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, evening.

March 2—Academy awards, Chinese Theatre, Hollywood.

March 5—ASCAP and American Theatre Wing tribute to Lorenz Hart, Majestic Theatre, New York.

March 11-15—M-G-M sales and war conference, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago.

March 13—Rally for Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People of Europe, Madison Square Garden, New York.

March 23-29—Motion picture industry Red Cross campaign.

Peggy Bleakley Is Named Story Editor

Peggy Bleakley, assistant to Joseph Shea, Eastern publicity director for William Cagney Productions here, has been promoted to story editor in the East.

Before going to the Cagney office Miss Bleakley was with David O. Selznick and Hunt Stromberg.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
Joan Fontaine • Orson Welles
"JANE EYRE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
GALA STAGE SHOW
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
"ACTION IN ARABIA"
GEORGE SANDERS
VIRGINIA BRUCE

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
ON SCREEN
"Phantom Lady"
FRANCHOT TONE
ELLA RAINES
IN PERSON
LOUIS PRIMA
and Orch.

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address. "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 194 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c

Skouras in Tribute To Industry Leaders

Tribute to the industry and its leaders for their parts in the 4th War Loan Campaign was given Monday night by Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry drive, and Theodore Gamble, chairman of the War Finance Division, at a dinner, attended by more than 60 leaders, held at the Club 21.

Skouras gave the dinner as a testimonial to chiefs of distribution of all the motion picture companies, officials of the War Activities Committee and the "12 Flying Bondsmen." Skouras paid special tribute to Ned E. Depinet, chairman of the distributors' group.

Among those invited were J. R. Vogel, Major L. E. Thompson, Leonard Goldenson, Oscar Doob, Harry Kalmine, John Harris, Joseph Bernhard, J. L. Grainger, Steve Broidy, Al O'Keefe, E. K. O'Shea, Andy Smith, William Gehring, Morris Kinzler, Tony Muto, Edmund Reek, Murray Silverstone, John Maloney, Claude Lee, H. A. Krappman, Bernie Hynes, Hal Horne, Red Stein, Charles Schlaifer, Willard Keith, Ed Peskay, Seymour Peiser and F. H. Ricketson, Jr.

Others Invited

Also B. V. Sturdivant, William F. Rodgers, Gradwell Sears, Neil Agnew, William F. Scully, W. C. Michel, Ben Kalmenson, Dan Michalove, Abe Montague, Leo McCarthy, Ed Morey, Charles Reagan, A. W. Schwalberg, Tom Connors, William Kupper, Sidney Towell, Carl Leserman, William Eadie, Maxwell Gillis, Ed Gomersall, Herman Robbins, Leon Bamberger, George Dembow, Robert Mochrie, E. L. Alperson, Francis Harmon, Sam Shain, Si Fabian, Arthur Mayer, George Schaeffer, Ed Schreiber and Herman Gluckman.

250 Expected at Ampa Lunch Today

About 250 persons are expected to attend the Ampa luncheon today at the Hotel Edison. Maurice Bergman, Eastern ad-publicity director for Universal, will speak on "What Has Happened to Advertising in Theatres."

Exhibitor leaders, including Max Cohen, Leon Goldenson, Bob Weitman, Leo Brecher, Sam Rinzler and Walter Neithold, are expected to participate in discussion of the question. James Zabin, vice-president of Ampa, will preside.

4th War Loan Group Returning to Coast

Charles P. Skouras, who headed the industry's 4th War Loan Drive, is expected to return to his National Theatre headquarters in Los Angeles on Thursday, with Seymour Peiser, who was publicity director for the campaign returning to his post in Los Angeles today. Others who assisted Skouras on the drive will follow shortly.

RKO Promotes Braeunig

CLEVELAND, Feb. 22.—Otto Braeunig, RKO auditor here, has resumed his former position as office manager, succeeding L. F. Blumenfeld, who resigned to join William N. Skirball Theatres as booker.

"The Purple Heart"

(Continued from page 1)

firmly rooted story base will predict a great deal for "The Purple Heart." Generally, this reviewer is in that corner.

But those who find themselves depressed by the hammer-like blows which this attraction will rain down upon them may forecast the answer in reverse. If they do, it would not follow that they are anti-war. Nor would it follow that the studios ought to stop making war pictures. And no good point will be served in anybody's saying so.

THE undecipherable question in this case is whether "The Purple Heart" will aid morale by shocking determination into a new emphasis for final victory or whether it will tend merely to shock. The answer, no doubt, resides somewhere between these two outer poles. On the other hand and on the plus side there may be great interest in seeing a dramatic interpretation of the Japanese inhumanities cited by the Government in recent months.

In all of its departments, however, "The Purple Heart" decidedly has it on the ball. It is well acted by a cast of whom Dana Andrews is the best known. There is a single flash only on the romantic side. Apart from early scenes in which the crew abandons ship over China and is subsequently turned over to Japanese authorities by a puppet provincial governor, the drama is practically a two-set affair—the prison pen and the courtroom.

THE trial is an obvious fake, a device set up by civil authorities to establish a one-way record to justify the verdict long fore-ordained. The atrocities, of course, are never shown, but the results are. One aviator becomes unbalanced. Another's vocal chords are silenced. The bones of a third are broken. But regardless of what happens and irrespective of what promises are held forth, the valiant and intrepid group sticks together through thick and thin, and always it is very thick.

Finally, they vote down an offer which presumably would spare their lives if they divulge the nature of the base from which their and the other planes launched the Tokyo attack. The inevitable sentence is death. They know it, but they take it in a manner which ought to arouse a fierce surge of pride in every American's breast.

The title springs from the award established by George Washington during the Revolutionary War. It is granted any uniformed man who has shed his blood in the defense of his homeland. Drawing upon this base and the Tokyo bombing, Melville Grossman has fashioned an almost overwhelming story which Jerome Cady converted into script form. Lewis Milestone provided stature and force in his direction, which deserves unreserved praise.

Assisting Andrews in the cast are Sam Levene, Farley Granger, Richard Conte, Kevin O'Shea, Donald Barry and Charles Russell. Others are Richard Loo, Tala Birrell and Trudy Marshall.

Running time, 99 mins. "A."* Release in Block No. 8, March.

RED KANN

*"A" denotes adult classification.

'Snow White' Revival Opens in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Feb. 22.—RKO-Radio's revival of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," which will have premieres this week in 60 cities throughout Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Kentucky, was launched tonight at the Grand Theatre here.

Climaxing a four weeks' campaign, highlighted by personal appearances of Adriana Casselotti, the original Snow White voice, the chief event tonight was the selection over WLW of winners in a Snow White and cartoonists' contests with Deems Taylor, music critic, as judge. The winners will be announced tomorrow night at a dinner at the Netherlands Plaza Hotel here under the sponsorship of the local Variety Club, with the governors of Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Indiana as guests. It was announced by Terry Turner, in charge of arrangements for RKO Radio, that Walt Disney is expected from Hollywood for the dinner and a New York delegation will include Ned Depinet, Robert Mochrie, Nat Levy, Walter Branson, Edward L. Alperson, Harold Mirisch, Harry Mandel, S. Barret McCormick and Linus Travers.

Mail Fraud Trial Put Off to March 3

Federal Judge Vincent L. Leibell has postponed until March 3 the trial of the six Chicago gangsters recently convicted also of extorting $1,000,000 from the film industry, and Ralph Pierce, also of Chicago, on mail fraud charges arising out of the wage 'tax' levied against members of the IATSE.

The wage tax fund, amounting to about $1,500,000, was allegedly controlled exclusively by George E. Browne, former IATSE president, and William Bioff, labor racketeer, both of whom were imprisoned two years ago for extortion. The money, according to Boris Kostelanetz, special Federal prosecutor, was divided by Browne and Bioff among Chicago defendants and themselves.

No steps have been taken by the former members of the Capone gang to obtain their release from the Federal house of detention on bail pending appeal from their earlier conviction.

Muriel Fuller Resigns

Muriel Fuller of the Warner Bros. Eastern story department, has resigned to join the Nelson Bible Publishing Co.

ProductionOff, 36 in Work at Coast Studios

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 22. — Production dropped off during the past week with nine pictures finished and five new ones started, bringing the number on the stages to 36. During the previous week five were finished and three started, leaving 40 in work. The production scene:

Columbia

Shooting: "Mr. Winkle Goes to War," "Pilebuck," "At Night We Dream," "Mission Thirty-six."
Finished: "The Girl in the Case."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "National Velvet," "Meet Me In St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross," "Dragon Seed."

Monogram

Shooting: "Detective Kitty O'Day."

Paramount

Shooting: "Practically Yours," "Bring On the Girls," "And Now Tomorrow," "Road to Utopia," "Incendiary Blonde."

PRC

Started: "Shake Hands With Murder" with Iris Adrian, Frank Jenks, Douglas Fowley.
Shooting: "Minstrel Man."
Finished: Devil's Apprentice," "Guns of the Lawless," "Dixie Showboat."

RKO-Radio

Started: "Heavenly Days" with Fibber McGee and Molly, Barbara Hale.
Shooting: Manhattan Serenade."
Finished: "One Exciting Night."

International

Started: "Casanova Brown" with Gary Cooper, Teresa Wright, Frank Morgan, Patricia Collinge, Isabel Elsom, Anita Louise.

Republic

Shooting: "Silent Partner," "Candlelights in Lisbon."
Finished: "The Man From Brooklyn."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "A Wing and a Prayer" with Don Ameche, Dana Andrews, William Eythe, Charles Bickford.
Shooting: "Keys of the Kingdom," "Sweet and Low-Down," "Wilson," "In the Meantime, Darling."

United Artists

Shooting: "The Hairy Ape" (Levey), "Sensations of 1944" (Stone).
Finished: "Song of the Open Road" (Rogers).

Universal

Started: "Jungle Woman" with Acquanetta, Evelyn Ankers, Milburn Stone, Richard Davis, Lois Collier.
Shooting: "Slick Chick," "The "Climax."
Finished: "Pardon My Rhythm," "The Invisible Man's Revenge."

Warners

Shooting: "Cinderella Jones," "Mr. Skeffington," "My Reputation," "Janie."

Screen 'My Way' Friday

Paramount will trade-screen "Going My Way" Friday morning at 10:30 at the Normandie Theatre here.



See here, Mister Exhibitor — The phenomenal World Premiere at Charlotte, N. C. is the tip-off! Get set for the first BIG Rookie Comedy of the war! The best-seller on the screen is funnier than ever. A natural for all America.

HERE

HARGROVE



"Remember! March 15th Deadline for Honored Hundred Bond Reports to State Chairmen!"

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 22

THE executive committee of the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals, headed by President Sam Wood, met tonight at Patriotic Hall with the chairmen of the Americanization committees of the California American Legion to further plans for cooperation between the two groups in combatting the alleged inroads of Communism and Fascism on the film industry.

•

John E. Flynn, M-G-M Central division sales manager, left yesterday for Chicago after meeting about 60 Southern California exhibitors here at an Ambassador Hotel luncheon. He intends to visit the Coast every three months.

•

Sam Wood will produce and direct "Jubal Troop" for Columbia. William Cameron Menzies will act as associate producer. The film will go into work after Wood completes "Casanova Brown," International's first in which Gary Cooper stars.

•

William F. Rodgers, Loew's vice-president in charge of distribution, will arrive Feb. 27 for a studio visit prior to attending a meeting of M-G-M district and branch managers at the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago March 12-14.

•

Helen Hoffman will marry Ray Sandler, Hollywood attorney, on March 15. She is Louis B. Mayer's niece. The groom is a member of the firm of Zagon, Aaron and Sandler.

•

Commander Art Schmidt, former Eastern publicity manager for M-G-M, is visiting the M-G-M studio while on leave.

•

Colbert Clark, former producer at Columbia as well as Republic and Paramount, will return to the former studio to make Westerns.

•

M-G-M has purchased "For Better or Worse," unproduced stage play by Chester Erskine. Edwin Knopf will film it.

•

William R. Walsh, labor relations liaison for the M-G-M studio will leave here Feb. 27 for the IATSE-producer conferences in New York.

•

"Flight Nurse," an original by W. Ray Wilson, has been added to the Columbia schedule.

•

Republic has signed Herman Millakowsky to an associate producer contract.

Trop Completes 'Miracle'

J. D. Trop, former vice-president of Harry Sherman Productions, has compiled "Mediterranean Miracle" for the National Labor Committee of Palestine. The film was photographed in the Near East.

Baldridge to M-G-M

MEMPHIS, Feb. 22.—Tommy Baldridge, former exploiteer for Warners in the Southeast, has joined the local branch of M-G-M as a film salesman. He has been assigned to Arkansas.

Free Admission for Children Anytime

Columbus, O., Feb.. 22.—With many exhibitors leaning toward the curtailment of child attendance to help check delinquency destruction, Leo Yassenoff, who, with his associates, recently took over the neighborhood Westmont, Arlington, Boulevard and Southern theatres, is featuring free matinees for all children of school age, both grammar and high school, at successive days at all four houses.

"There are no 'strings' to the admissions," Yassenoff announces, "it is a goodwill gesture."

Century Dinner to Climax Bond Drive

The Century Circuit here will climax its 4th War Loan drive by sponsoring a "million dollar dinner" at the Garden City Hotel, Garden City, L. I., on March 7. Admission will be by purchase of a $5,000 bond only; $750,000 has already been subscribed.

Highlights of the affair will include the selling of a battleflag sent by General Dwight Eisenhower to Judge Leone Howell and auction of a deck of autographed playing cards used by Eisenhower and General Mark Clark.

Further late returns from the field continue to add to the industry's record bond sales. Premieres at seven Warner circuit houses in Philadelphia realized $6,943,260, according to Ted Schlanger, zone chief there. In Chicago a capacity audience attended the "Government Girl" premiere at the RKO Grand Theatre and subscribed $1,126,375. In Hartford, Conn., a show at the Bushnell Memorial featuring Captain Glenn Miller's Training Command Band from Yale University realized $700,000. Speeches were made by managing director Mayor William Mortensen of the Bushnell and by Harry Shaw, state industry chairman of the War Activities Committee.

Legion of Decency Passes 7 Pictures

The Legion of Decency this week rates seven films, all of which were accorded acceptable ratings. "Beneath Western Skies," Republic; "Chip Off the Old Block," Universal; "Frontier Outlaws," PRC; "Mojave Firebrand," Republic; "The Sullivans," 20th-Fox; and "Wyoming Hurricane," Columbia, were rated Class A-1, for general patronage. In Class A-2, unobjectionable for adults, was United Artists' "Bridge of San Luis Rey."

Seattle Workers Get Overtime Increases

SEATTLE, Feb. 22.—IATSE film exchange Local B-21 representing "backroom" employes in exchanges here have accepted the concessions of overtime work granted by the majors in effecting a settlement of the threatened strike of Local B-51 in New York.

Maude Richards, business agent of B-21 has announced her resignation from that office.

'Bernadette' Take Is Nice $18,000

CINCINNATI, Feb. 22.—A break in the recent snow and cold wave found reflection in a somewhat upward box-office curve, with "The Song of Bernadette" promising the RKO Capitol an estimated $18,000 at advanced prices. "A Woman of the Town," plus a stage show, should give the RKO Albee around $23,000.

Estimated reicepts for the week ending Feb. 22-26:

"A Woman of the Town" (UA)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Vaughn Monroe's orchestra, Gil Mason, Betty Jane Smith and Chester Dolphin. Goss: $23,000. (Average: $22,000).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (40c-55c-75c-$1.10) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $18,000. Average, at 35c-40c-55c-65c: $10,000).

"Timber Queen" (Para.)
"Sundown Valley" (Col.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $1,000. (Average: $1,400).

"Arizona Whirlwind" (Mono.)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,100. (Average: $800).

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
RKO GRAND—1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 4 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 3rd week. (Pulled for opening of "Snow White and Seven Dwarfs," Feb. 22.) Gross: $2,300. (Average, 7 days: $9,500).

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the RKO Palace. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,200).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
RKO SHUBERT—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 4th week, moveover from three weeks at the RKO Capitol. Gross: $3,800. (Average: $5,000).

Query Witnesses on Coast in Lustig Suit

William Lustig, who is suing Universal Pictures for damages of $525,000 alleging it wrongfully induced a breach of contract between Lustig and the parents of Gloria Jean Schoonover, child actress, has agreed to permit Universal to examine Lawrence Waterman, Nathan Blumberg, Joseph Pasternak, Daniel Kelley, Clifford Work and Edward Muhl, prospective Universal witnesses, in California, rather than bring them to New York City for the trial.

The case is pending in New York Supreme Court and Lustig's agreement caused Universal to withdraw a motion for the appointment of a commission to take the witnesses' testimony.

Lustig claims he has an exclusive contract as the child star's manager, and examination of the witnesses in California was necessitated by his claim that they had knowledge of its existence.

Hodson Leaves Coast To Tour RAF Fields

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 22.—J. L. Hodson, British war correspondent, here for conferences with the Army Signal Corps film section on the film "Tunisian Victory," leaves tomorrow for Texas, New Orleans and other Southern points, to visit R. A. F. training fields before returning to Washington and thence to New York. He plans to leave for London in six weeks.

Four-Day Holiday Sends Broadway Grosses Soaring

An extra day school holiday on Monday decreed by authorities as a fuel conservation measure to add to Washington's Birthday holiday business yesterday, coupled with ideal weather over the weekend is leading key Broadway theatres to very high grosses this week. Long lines were the order of the day reminiscent of Christmas-New Year's week.

Radio City Music Hall with "Jane Eyre" and a stage show will gross an estimated $110,000 on a third week and will hold for a fourth. Business this week is equal to if not better than the first week. Out-distancing the initial week's take, "The Sullivans" and a stage presentation featuring Martha Raye is headed for $95,000 on its second week at the Roxy and will hold for a third. The second week of "The Song of Russia" and a stage bill headlining the Mills Brothers, Buck and Bubbles and Lionel Hampton and band at the Capitol will bring $70,000 and the bill will hold for a third and final week, with United Artists' "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" set for March 2.

'Morgan's Creek' Closes

The final six days of the fifth week of "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and a stage show at the Paramount yielded $62,000. "Lady in the Dark" and a stage bill headed by Xavier Cugat and his band opened at the theatre yesterday. The Strand with "In Our Time" and Ina Ray Hutton and band and the Three Stooges will do $53,000 on its second week with the bill holding over.

"The Song of Bernadette" will do approximately $54,000 on its fourth week at the Rivoli to better the third week's business and will continue. "Passage to Marseille" is headed for a new house record at the Hollywood on its first week with the gross expected to be more than the $50,000 set by "The Is the Army." The sixth week for "Lifeboat" at the Astor will register $20,000 and will continue.

'Gung Ho!' Brings $25,000

Fourth and final week of "Gung Ho!" at the Criterion was $25,000 with the house grossing $123,000 on the four weeks. Paramount's "Standing Room Only" opened at the Criterion yesterday. "Action in Arabia" is expected to yield the Palace $23,000 on its first week. The first run "Phantom Lady" at Loew's State will gross approximately $34,000. Final six days of the 16th week of "North Star" at the New Victoria, ending last night, brought approximately $11,500, winding up 25 weeks for this picture, nine at the Palace and 16 at the New Victoria. "No Greater Love," Soviet importation with English dialogue will open at the New Victoria tomorrow.

First week of "The Uninvited" at the Globe will gross approximately $25,000 and will hold. Second week of "Calling Dr. Death" at the Rialto is expected to get $8,000. RKO's "The Curse of the Cat People" will open at the Rialto on Friday.

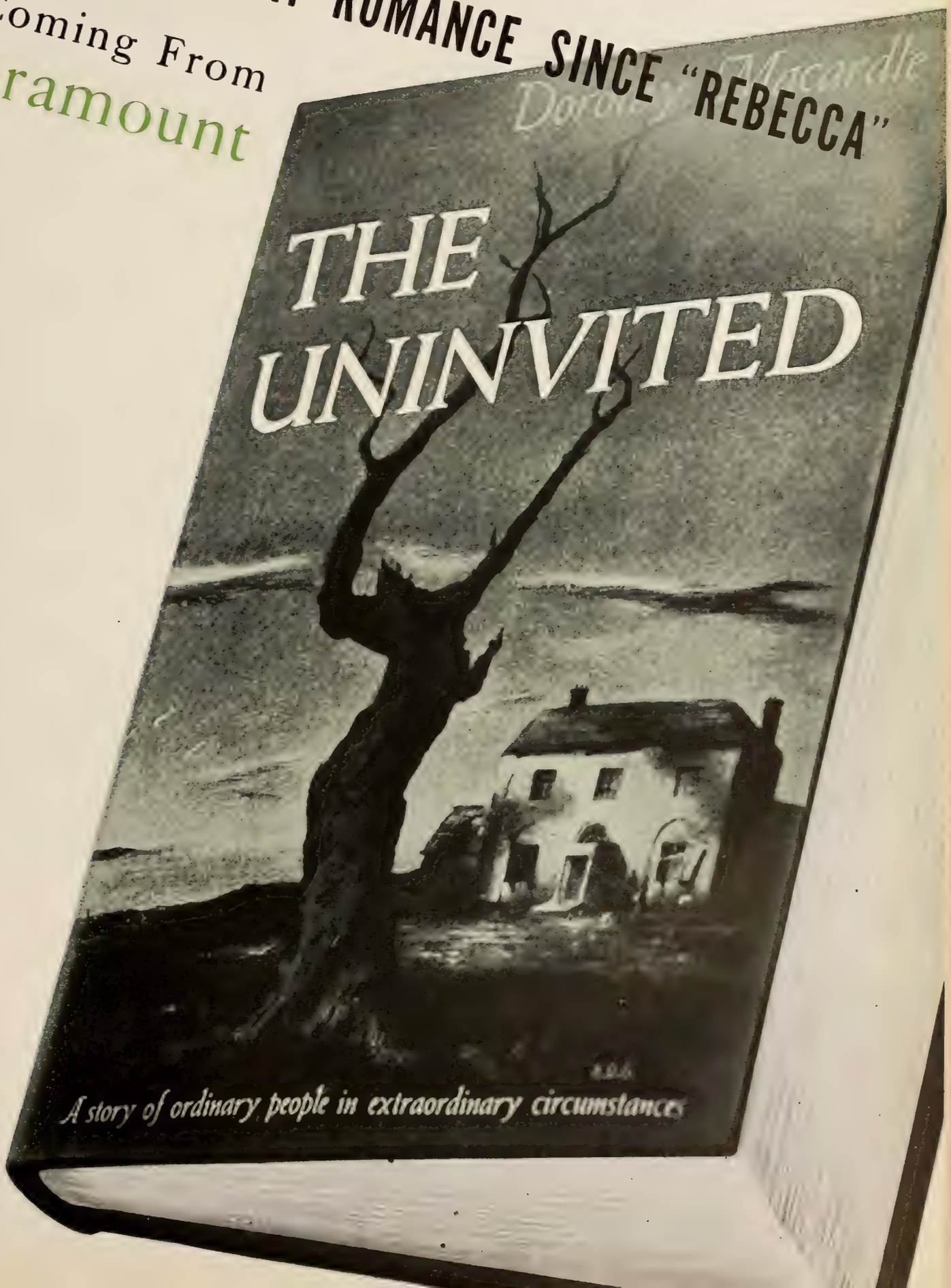
Beier Joins Columbia

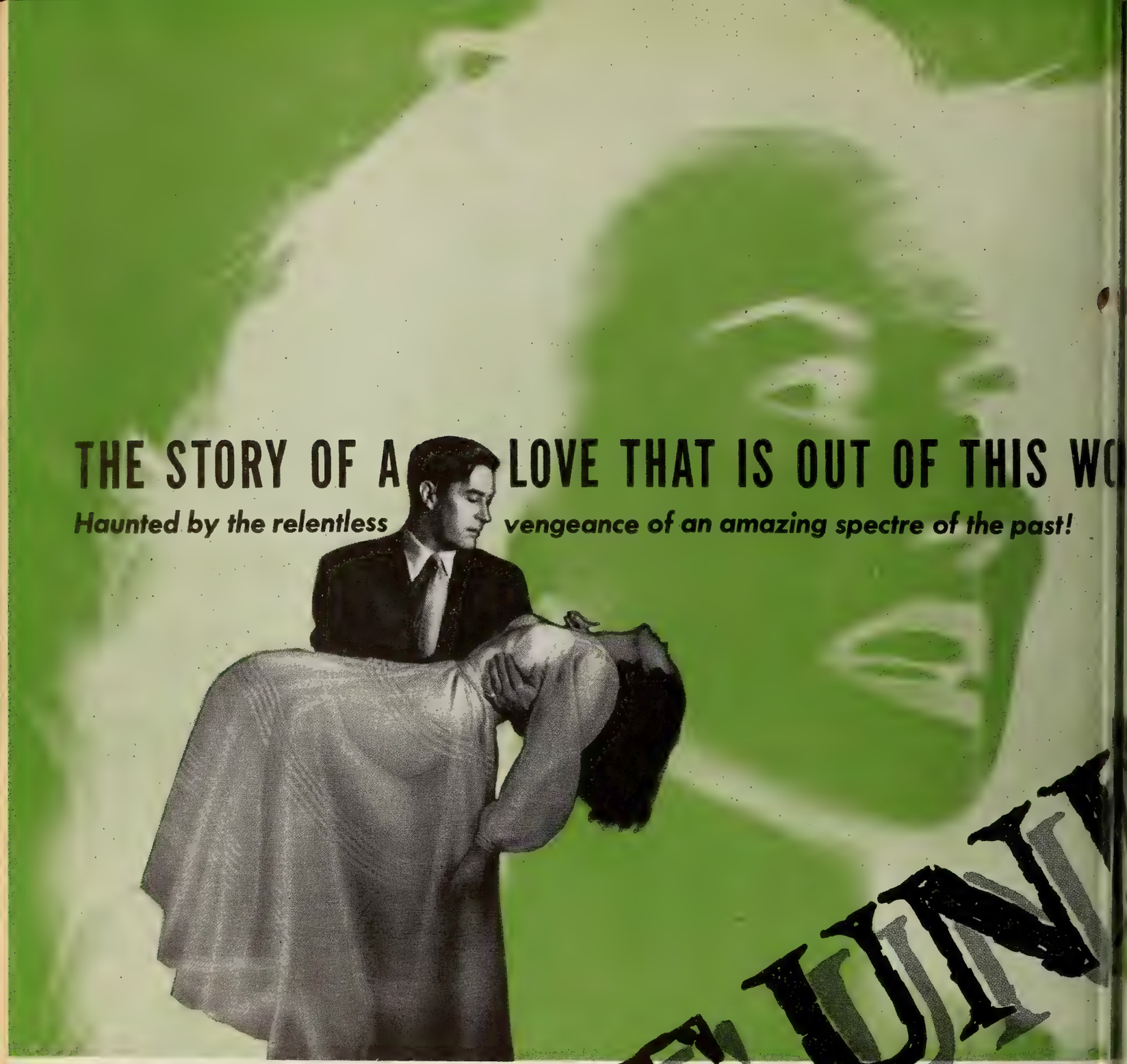
Leonard Beier, member of the Warner press book department for several years has resigned and has joined Columbia in a similar capacity.

THE GREATEST MYSTERY ROMANCE SINCE "REBECCA"

Is Coming From

Paramount





THE STORY OF A LOVE THAT IS OUT OF THIS WO

Haunted by the relentless vengeance of an amazing spectre of the past!

THE UN

Starring

RAY MILLAND · RUTH HUSSEY · DONALD CRISP

with **Cornelia Otis Skinner** · And Introducing **Gail Russell**

From the Famous Best-Seller and Liberty Magazine Sensation . . . . .

UNINVITED

Do you believe there houses filled with unseen evil?

Do you believe that the cold hate of an evil soul can materialize on earth and threaten the destruction of a lovely young girl?

Do you believe that the spirit of a mother can stay behind to guard her daughter from the malignance of the un-dead?



You will when you see Paramount's thrilling picturization of Dorothy Macardle's exciting novel of the supernatural



"The Uninvited"

A Paramount Picture Starring

RAY MILLAND · RUTH HUSSEY · DONALD CRISP

Gail Russell

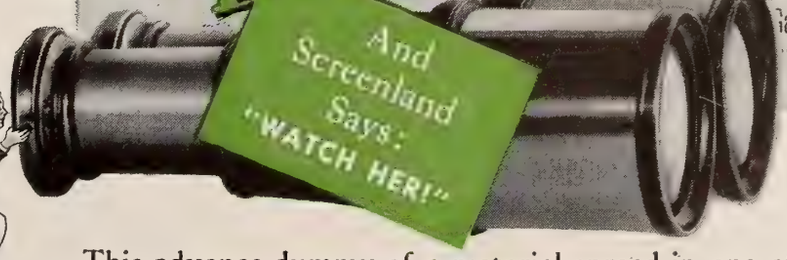
and Frank Partos

Paramount will advertise it in

LIFE

and 14 other great magazines.





This advance dummy of a pictorial spread in one of America's leading picture magazines heralds a tremendous press reception for Paramount's greatest player discovery since Sonny Tufts and Alan Ladd...



SCREENLAND SALUTES GAIL RUSSELL!

She's sensational in "The Uninvited," the greatest "find" in years. Paramount has picked a winner in this beautiful young girl. Watch her!

MAG SCREENLAND ISSUE APR. 1944
BLEED
TRIM SI



Ginger Rogers greets new star Gail Russell on the set at Paramount. Gail played a small part in Ginger's picture, "Lady In The Dark." Below, Gail with Donald Crisp in "The Uninvited" splendid "spook" drama with romance — Gail's first big rôle.



Below with Cornelia Otis Skinner, in whose popular story, "Our Hearts Were Young And Gay" Gail will next appear.





THE Hollywood REPORTER ††

THE Film DAILY *

MOTION PICTURE DAILY †

Distinguished Product Says the Trade Press

BOXOFFICE **

VARIETY *

"A Film Possessing Class & Distinction

Rich in Drama and Suspense."*

"Seldom has a chiller been produced with so much refinement and subtlety."**

"*Distinguished product,* rich in the values that count for entertainment."†

"SUPERB GHOST DRAMA; SURE OF TOP GROSSES."††

"One of the most unusual pictures to emerge from any studio . . . Gail Russell displays dramatic talents which assure her a place in the star firmament." ★

Paramount's

Directed by
LEWIS ALLEN
Screen Play by Dodie Smith and Frank Partos

The Uninvited

Another Miracle In The Miracle 5

"THE MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK"

"THE UNINVITED"

"STANDING ROOM ONLY"

"HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT"

"TIMBER QUEEN"

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Feb. 22

SCRIPT difficulties have delayed the starting dates on two of RKO-Radio's top budget features on David Hempstead's slate. "The Gibson Girl," starring Ginger Rogers, which had a March camera date, will not go on the stages until June, and "Elizabeth Kenny," starring Rosalind Russell, will not roll until late in the Fall, Hempstead said.

•

Warners, who took over Cheryl Walker's contract from Sol Lesser when the studio bought the rights to "Hollywood Canteen," has assigned her to play opposite Robert Shane in Gordon Hollingshead's Western short, "Trial by Trigger," now in production.

•

Jack L. Warner handed Joan Leslie, who is presently in "Cinderella Jones," a new contract . . . George Seaton has turned in the first draft of "Diamond Horseshoe" and is headed East to confer with Richard Whorf on the play, "Out of This World . . . M-G-M has changed the title of "America" to "The American Miracle."

•

Chet Bell, Los Angeles Paramount exchange manager, sold $378,000 in 4th War Loan bonds through two special showings of "Lady in the Dark" in the 52-seat exchange projection room with bond purchases providing admission . . . Howard Estabrook debuts as a director on "Heavenly Days," Fibber McGee and Molly starrer, at RKO.

•

George Sherman is considering Carol Parker, former songbird with such bands as Rudy Vallee's and others, for a top role in his "Candlelight in Lisbon" (formerly "Lady From Lisbon"), a spy story laid in Portugal. . . . Jeffery Sayre, who recently finished in 20th's "The Purple Heart," now goes into "I Married a Soldier." . . . Leon Fromkess has signed Gladys George, Roscoe Karns and Alan Dinehart for featured roles in PRC's "Minstrel Man."

•

RKO-Radio is really going to give the swooners something to swoon about in the next Frank Sinatra picture. They've put a couple of flats-and-sharps blacksmiths to work on a song titled "Kiss Me!" . . . Frank Morgan has a featured role in "Dear Barbara," starring Susan Peters, at M-G-M. . . . Jane Farrar, red-head who played the feminine heavy in "Phantom of the Opera," has a similar role in producer-director George Waggner's Technicolor film, "The Climax," at Universal.

'Purple Heart' Opens In Florida March 1

Twentieth-Fox's "The Purple Heart," produced by Darryl F. Zanuck, will have its world premiere at three theatres in Florida on March 1, it was announced here by Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution. Lou Goldberg, 20th-Fox exploiteer who received the Purple Heart last year, is in charge of the campaign. The film will open at the Lincoln, Miami Beach; the Capitol and Miami Theatres, Miami.

'Ali Baba' Is Strong For $11,300 Gross

TORONTO, Feb. 22.—"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" was holding a $11,300 pace for its second week at the Uptown. Among new pictures, "What a Woman" was pointing to a top gross of $12,800 at the Imperial, with "Destination Tokyo" promising $12,300 at Shea's. Third week of "Thousands Cheer" at Loew's looked like $8,700 with several days of the week cold and blustery.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 24:

"Went the Day Well" (British)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,000).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $12,800).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,700. (Average: $11,200).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,300. (Average: $12,800).
"No Time for Love" (Para.) (Moveover)
"Minesweeper" (Para.)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $3,900. (Average: $4,400).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,300. (Average: $9,800).

Texas, Oklahoma Need New Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

Neches; several neighborhood houses may be required in San Antonio, including one for Mexicans, a Spanish-language theatre may be needed in Houston, and facilities for Negroes are needed in Commerce and Corsicana.

In other sections of the Southwest, Lake Charles, Maplewood and Leesville might use new theatres, the last with provision for Negroes, while in Doyline a small house of 200-300 capacity was suggested. In Oklahoma, it was reported, Tulsa and Oklahoma City both could use new downdown theatres, and the former needs neighborhood houses in its North and East Suburbs. A new theatre may be needed at Pryor and a house for Negroes at McAlester.

Reports also were received suggesting the need of additional facilities at Albany, Ore.; Bremerton, Wash., and the New London-Groton, Conn., area.

Theatres' Priority Sound Rating Given

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The War Production Board has announced extension to exhibitors of the right to use the AA-2 preference rating and maintenance repair and operating supply symbol for the "minimum necessary" maintenance and repairing of sound equipment.

It was emphasized that the rating may not be used for the repair of projection equipment except sound heads or other theatre equipment nor may it be used to obtain minor capital additions.

'Raid' at Stanley

The first American showing of the British-made "Before the Raid," being distributed here by Budd Rogers, will accompany the world premiere of "Norway Replies!" starting Friday at the Stanley Theatre here.

Army Withholding More Than Half of Newsreel Pictures

(Continued from page 1)

released film was charged against the allotment of raw stock to the newsreels even though some of the "stories" were requested by Army officials.

"All newsreel shots made by American newsreel cameramen in England must also be submitted to British authorities, and if they raise any objections the clips are deleted in Washington by the Army," Oliver stated. "The Army authorities are using American newsreel cameramen to build up an extensive library of 'realistic' shots which are being used for Army schooling," he added.

Mobile Theatre in Italy

Oliver revealed that the Army Pictorial Service has constructed a mobile theatre to show films to soldiers near the front lines in Italy. The mobile unit uses 16mm Hollywood films and can be used for as many as 5,000 soldiers at one time.

"Film houses were opened in Naples as soon as the Americans moved in," Oliver said. They are being used to show American films to the Italians with Army exchanges handling the film and the American Red Cross arranging showings. "There are no theatres in the small towns," he added.

"American soldiers in Italy are satisfied with anything as long as it is something to look at," Oliver stated in talking about preferences in motion pictures. They even like to see war films," he added, contrary to opposite impressions given here by persons returning from war theatres.

Filmed Running Battles

Oliver spent the first six months of his overseas assignment in England with the U. S. 8th Air Force. He went on three bombing missions over Germany, two on Hamburg. He also spent three weeks aboard Royal Air Force torpedo boats in the English Channel taking shots during running battles with German P-T boats. He replaced Neil Sullivan, wounded Pathe newsreel cameraman in Naples last November and was there until his return, having participated in the taking of three Italian towns from the Germans. While in Italy he had several narrow escapes while under German shelling, and another at an airfield in Scotland, when some bombs being loaded into an American bomber exploded.

Oliver has been a newsreel cameraman for 23 years working variously for all five American newsreel companies. He also spent four years in Hollywood acting in 73 pictures between 1936 and 1940. He is scheduled to return to England in about three weeks presumably to work with the invasion forces.

National Screen Meet

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—Managers from 19 Southern, Midwest and Western cities today completed a two-day general business conference of National Screen Service at the Blackstone Hotel here. Herman Robbins, George Dembow and William Brenner were in charge.

'Fantasy' Grosses $17,500, Against A Par of $12,700

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22.—Universal's "Flesh and Fantasy," grossing $17,500 at the State, against a $12,700 par, and 20th-Fox's "Lifeboat," at the State, taking $15,500 over a $11,000 par, were on top here this week in a generally good seven-day period at downtown first runs.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 21-24:

"Bridge of San Luis Rey" (NA)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Frisco Kid" (WB)
WARFIELD—(2,680) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $21,900. (Average: $20,300).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $26,000).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"So This Is Washington?" (RKO)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $22,300. (Average: $23,500).
"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $12,700).
"Desert Song" (WB)
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $10,300).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
STATE—(2,306) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $11,100).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT—(2,740) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,700. (Average: $18,700).

$28,000 Gross for 'Russia' in Capital

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Chalk up "Song of Russia" as the top grosser of the week with Loew's Capitol headed for a splendid $25,000. Kathryn Grayson helped the total as the stage attraction. Another money-maker is "Tender Comrade," which should do a neat $8,000 in its first week at RKO-Keith's.

Estimated reecipts for the week ended Feb. 24:

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S CAPITOL—(3,434) (28c-39c-44c-66c) 7 days. One stage: Kathryn Grayson. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Riding High" (Para.)
LOEW'S COLUMBIA—(1,234) (30c-50c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $7,000).
"Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER'S EARLE—(2,210) (30c-40c-50c-75c-90c) 7 days. On stage: Eddie White. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $19,700).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
RKO-KEITH'S—(1,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,600).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
LOEW'S PALACE—(2,242) (28c-55c) 7 days. Goss: $20,000. (Average: $19,000).

Theatre Management Record and Annual Tax Register

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QUIGLEY BOOKSHOP
Rockefeller Center, New York (20)

Red Cross Meetings For All Key Cities; Chairmen Named

(*Continued from page* 1)

Sam Rinzler, Brooklyn; Fred J. Schwartz, New York City; Andrew Gibson, Buffalo; H. F. Kincey, Charlotte; John Balaban, Chicago; Col. Arthur Frudenfeld, Cincinnati; Nat Wolf, Cleveland; R. J. O'Donnell, Dallas; Rick Ricketson, Denver; A. H. Blank, Des Moines; Earl Hudson, Detroit; Marc Wolf, Indianapolis; Don Rossiter, Indianapolis; Elmer Rhoden, Kansas City; Chas. Skouras, Los Angeles.

Other Chairmen

Also, M. A. Rosenberg, McKees Rock, Pa.; M. A. Silver, Pittsburgh; M. A. Lightman, Memphis; Harold Fitzgerald, Milwaukee; John Friedl, Minneapolis; Don Jacocks, Newark; Harry Lowenstein, Newark; I. J. Hoffman, New Haven; E. V. Richards, New Orleans; Maurice F. Barr, New Orleans; L. C. Griffith, Oklahoma City; William Miskell, Omaha; John Rugar, Park City, Utah; Earle W. Sweigert, Philadelphia; Albert Finke, Portland; Ed Fay, Providence; Harry Arthur, St. Louis; B. V. Sturdivant, San Francisco; Frank Newman, Sr., Seattle; W. J. Crockett, Virginia Beach, Va.; Carter Barron, Washington, D. C.; John J. Payette, Washington, D. C., and A. Joseph de Fiore, Wilmington, Del.

Set Speakers For Red Cross Breakfast

Speakers for the Red Cross breakfast to be held tomorrow morning at the Hotel Astor here as the initial rally in theatres' 1944 Red Cross Drive will be Joseph Bernhard, national chairman of the industry's campaign; Fred Schwartz of Century Circuit, and a Red Cross official, it was announced yesterday by Sam Rinzler, chairman of the committee, who also will serve as master of ceremonies.

Dais will include, in addition to Bernhard, Rinzler and Schwartz, Francis S. Harmon, Si Fabian, Charles P. Skouras, Rick Ricketson, Jr., Edward L. Alperson, Mort Blumenstock, Charles C. Moskowitz, B. V. Sturdivant, Max A. Cohen, David Weinstock, Leo Brecher, Charles MacDonald, Sol Schwartz, Oscar Dood and Arthur L. Mayer.

Boasberg, Others Promoted by RKO

(*Continued from page* 1)

pany's New York branch sales staff, has been promoted to branch manager and B. G. Kranze, Cleveland branch manager, has been named to succeed Boasberg as Eastern Central district manager.

Succeeding Kranze at Cleveland will be Al Kolitz, former branch manager at Denver, who has been succeeded by Tom Bailey, former San Francisco salesman.

Immerman Takes Stand

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—Walter R. Immerman, vice-president and general manager of the Balaban and Katz Corp., appeared on the stand late yesterday afternoon as the first defense witness in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust suit. The morning was devoted to readings from depositions.

Exhibitors Uninformed on Consent Decree Proposals

(*Continued from page* 1)

tors' decree proposals had not been brought to their attention and these, too, agreed that they would be better informed on the subject had the Department permitted the proposals to be published in the trade press.

Many were completely unaware that the failure of the trade press to publish the distributors' decree proposals was due to the Department's unwillingness to have the draft released for publication, inasmuch as the Department has stated repeatedly during the past six or eight months that it would welcome exhibitor expressions on the proposals for an amended decree.

Following are more MOTION PICTURE DAILY interviews with exhibitors on the decree proposals. Others will be published in later issues.

Happier on Block-Booking

SAMUEL STIEFEL, *Stiefel Booking Office, Hotel Lincoln, N. Y.,* owner of two suburban theatres and booker and buyer for several others, declared: "We were much happier on block-booking with a fair degree of cancellation. Films are costing us a lot more for the same quality." Questioned as to whether he has seen a copy of the decree, Stiefel replied: "No, I've only read parts of it in one of the trade papers." He heartily concurred when asked if trade press publicity would help him understand the decree. "Individual exhibitors not affiliated with any organization can only get it (the decree) in the trade press and there hasn't been much there." His theatres are last runs.

Waiting for a Copy

HARRY K. HECHT, *Hecht Circuit, 37 Lexington Ave., Passaic, N. J.,* said that he had seen parts of the decree in one of the trade papers, "but, of course, I didn't read the entire decree, so I can't give you any opinion of it." A member of New Jersey Allied, Hecht said of decree discussions at his organization's meetings: "We talk at every meeting, but haven't arrived at any conclusion." There is a meeting scheduled for this week, he said. "Naturally it would have enlightened us more," he said of decree information in the trade press, "if you gave us more." He admitted that until they got a copy of the consent decree, which, he said, Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark had promised them, they would remain unacquainted with its provisions. He was waiting for a copy of the decree. Hecht owns six theatres, first runs and third runs, in downtown and suburban areas of New Jersey.

ISRAEL ZATKIN, general manager of the *Lane Theatre Circuit, 170 Nassau Street, Manhattan, said:* "I think the trade press should go into the proposed consent decree clause-by-clause, for the average exhibitor doesn't understand it." He said he understands it about as much as he understands the standard buying contract." Zatkin remarked that "there has not been any out-and-out explanation of what has been proposed; exhibitors don't know what it's all about and I think the trade press should explain the proposals more thoroughly." Zatkin, whose circuit consists of five houses, four neighborhoods and one downtown in Manhattan, does not belong to any organization. His houses have one-week clearance after Loew's and RKO. He admitted that he himself "hadn't digested the decree thoroughly," having seen only excerpts in one of the trade papers and, therefore, he didn't care to render 'snap' judgment. There are several clauses, however, which he felt should be embodied in a new decree.

Factional Splits

"Multi-theatre owners should not be compelled to buy the same pictures for all their theatres, because one film might be a natural for one house and a dud for another," he said. "Arbitration of run, as well as clearance, should be incorporated into the decree," Zatkin added. He felt that the position of exhibitors was much weaker than that of distributors because of factional splits, while distributors presented a solid bloc.

STANLEY KOLBERT, *general manager of Interboro Circuit, Inc., 120 West 42nd St., New York City,* said, with reference to the decree: "Frankly, I haven't seen too much about it." The little that he had seen, he said, has been in a trade paper here and there. Although he hasn't read proposals thoroughly, he has not been satisfied with some of them. Although Interboro's theatres are not affiliated with any organization, Kolbert said that he was "ready to go along with ITOA.

"I suppose so," was his reaction to trade press publicity on decree enlightenment. "It would be a good idea. On the other hand, perhaps Clark felt that, until it was worked out, why becloud the issue." He felt that Clark "was working for the man in the street." Interboro runs more than 30 theatres; they are second-runs in the neighborhood.

Favors Semi-Annual Basis

DAVID SNAPER *of David Snaper Theatres, 234 West 44th St., New York City,* a member of Jersey Allied, who owns four theatres in that state, admitted: "No, I haven't seen anything yet on the decree." Snaper said that he would go along with Allied's stand on the decree. He favors "block booking on a semi-annual basis of 25 or 26 pictures at a time, as the best way of buying." His theatres, a downtown and suburban, are second and third runs.

JACK GELBER, booker for *Interboro New York City,* declared that he was out of touch with events as he had just recovered from an illness. He favored trade paper exposition of the decree, saying, "Of course, if they do explain."

CIRO PAOLILLO, *Paradise Theatre, Brooklyn,* affiliated with the Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors, said that small exhibitors would be better off without any consent decree because "decrees favored the distributors." His house is a last run. Paolillo said that he had not seen a copy of the decree.

Conn. MPTO Favors Distributors' Decree

New Haven, Feb. 22.—The MPTO of Connecticut, an MPTOA affiliate, has approved the amendments and additions to the consent decree submitted by the five decree signing distributors, with minor revisions.

Approval came at a meeting following issuance of a special bulletin urging members to acquaint themselves with distributor recommendations.

British Tax Boost Raises Budjects

(*Continued from page* 1)

to spend millions on production and compete with us from a standpoint of investment. They are in a position to make better films," Reisman said.

Reisman went to England to make a survey of the distribution of American films by the United States Army Special Service Command and to hold meetings with RKO sales personnel in the United Kingdom for the first time in five years. He revealed that the Army is doing a professional job in distributing American films to soldiers stationed in England, despite handicaps. They have new prints and exerienced projectionists at their disposal. He is not making any recommendations for changes, and will so report to the War Activities Committee.

Held First Meeting

While in London, Reisman held the first RKO general sales meeting of United Kingdom personnel since the war began with about 15 managers attending. "RKO is producing two films a year in England at the Denham studios with Victor Hanbury in charge of production," Reisman said. "Any contemplated increase at present is out of the question in view of the limited studio space," he explained. "Hotel Reserved" has just been completed by RKO in England, he revealed.

Reisman indicated that Robert Wolff, newly appointed managing director for England, will leave for his post as soon as transportation can be arranged. Wolff will also act as Reisman' assistant on the continent.

Board Accepts Self Government Set-up

(*Continued from page* 1)

designated Col. J. A. Cooper, chairman of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association, and Henry Falk of the National Council of Independent Exhibitors to draft a constitution and rules of procedure for the regional conciliation committees in each of six key cities and for the central appeal board to be established in Toronto.

It was also resolved by the policy-planners that the appeals board and conciliation units are to have a "balanced representation," with one member each from distributors. circuits and organized exhibitors. Where there are two theatre associations in a territory, each will have a representative on the regional committee. Nearly all zones have independent exhibitor and general theatre associations.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 38 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1944 TEN CENTS

DO NOT REMOVE

Theatre Men Puzzled About Decree Draft

More Testify to Their Unfamiliarity With It

More rank-and-file exhibitors added their testimony yesterday to that gathered earlier by MOTION PICTURE DAILY indicating that the average exhibitor is without any specific information on the proposals of the five consenting companies for an amended consent decree. A large majority agree that they would have been better informed had the Department of Justice made the proposals available to the trade press for publication.

The statements were not confined to exhibitors who are not members of organized groups, but included many who are identified with local or regional exhibitor organizations. Those who are not members of an organization point out repeatedly that they have no other source of information than the trade press on subjects of the kind. With this avenue of information closed to them by the Department of Justice, they lack sufficient knowledge of the

(*Continued on page* 14)

Quigley 1944 Awards Judging on Feb. 28

Industry exhibition and distribution executives here will assemble on Monday, Feb. 28, at noon, at the Hotel Astor to select the theatre showmanship winners of the Quigley Awards for 1943 sponsored by *Motion Picture Herald* through its Managers' Round Table. Entries will consist of those

(*Continued on page* 15)

Manufacture of Raw Stock Up 30%

Washington, Feb. 23.—Manufacture of film, both still and motion picture totalled 546,093,000 feet in 1943, an increase of more than 30 per cent over the pre-war production of 418,028,000 feet in 1941, it was reported today by the War Production Board. Most if not all of the increase was at the request of the armed services.

The figures were based on the operations of eight manufacturers, representing virtually the entire industry.

Depinet, Robbins and Brandt to Aid Red Cross

Ned Depinet, president of RKO Radio, was named yesterday by Joseph Bernhard of Warners, and industry Red Cross drive chairman, to serve as chairman of the distributors' group during the March 23-29 period of the campaign for theatre collections. Herman Robbins, president of National Screen Service, was named corporate gifts chairman and Harry Brandt, circuit owner, will be field chairman. A. W. Smith, Eastern division manager of 20th-Fox, has been added to the list of executives who will tour the field. Names of the others appeared yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

With Charles A. Smakwitz, Warner Albany theatre executive, named national industry publicity chairman, as previously mentioned, Bernhard will have key city publicity representatives in each territory; these also were named yesterday.

Bernhard's executive staff is now complete, the aforementioned adding

(*Continued on page* 15)

Holiday Grosses Hit New Highs on B'way

Many Broadway theatres registered record-breaking grosses on Washington's Birthday, despite rain. This followed in the wake of heavy business on Monday when schools were closed. Typical of business done are the following figures:

Radio City Music Hall with "Jane Eyre," grossed $21,000 in five Tuesday shows. Paramount, opening "Lady in the Dark," smashed 18 years of first day records with almost $21,000. Warners' Hollywood, with "Passage to

(*Continued on page* 15)

British Promise Halt to Expansion

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Questioned in the House of Commons over the possibility of monopolistic control in the British film and theatre industry, Hugh Dalton, president of the Board of Trade, said the government has received assurances from Mrs. John Maxwell and Max Milder, managing director for Warners in Great Britain, that Associated British Picture Corp., Ltd., would not, without governmental consent, acquire theatres in

(*Continued on page* 14)

Exhibitors Urged To Seize Postwar Ad Opportunities

By MILT LIVINGSTON

Calling upon exhibitors to advertise during the present war period to institutionalize their theatres and perhaps prevent a post-war slump, Maurice Bergman, Universal's Eastern advertising and publicity head, cited five ways in which exhibitors can make the most of their opportunities through advertising in an address at an AMPA luncheon meeting at the Hotel Edison yesterday. Approximately 200 persons were present.



Maurice Bergman

"The day of ballyhoo has given way

(*Continued on page* 15)

House Will Act on Tax Bill Veto Today

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The House of Representatives is expected to act upon the new Federal tax bill tomorrow and, in so doing, it will virtually determine whether or not there will be an increased admission tax for theatres for many months to come, since it is a foregone conclusion here that if the House over-rides the President's veto, the Senate will do so when it acts upon the bill.

Leaders in both Houses of Congress

(*Continued on page* 14)

$16,744,936 Tax Is All-Time High

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Admission tax collections reached a new high in January at $16,744,936, surpassing the previous record, established last October, by $245,000, it was reported here tonight by the U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau.

The first 1944 collections were

(*Continued on page* 15)

Clark Weighs Suit Trial, Coast Hears

Dissatisfied with Decree Proposals, Tells Daily

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—Federal Court action under the anti-trust laws, seeking divorcement of exhibition from distribution, will be filed by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark unless greater concessions than those proposed by the majors in the new consent decree are forthcoming within three weeks, MOTION PICTURE DAILY has learned.

At the same time, a suit charging Fox West Coast Theatres with illegally fostering, sustaining and extending a monopoly banned under the 1940 consent decree was filed in Federal Court here today on behalf of Jenne Dodge, operator of the Mayfair and Mission Theatres in Ventura.

While here over last weekend, Clark

(*Continued on page* 15)

Casey Gets Demands From SOEG, MPEG

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 23.—Pat Casey, labor representative for the Association of Motion Picture Producers, today received demands from the Screen Office Employes Guild and the Motion Picture Editors Guild.

SOPEG seeks vacations with pay, accumulative sick leave and preferential hiring. It plans separate negotiations for wage increases allowable

(*Continued on page* 14)

'A Bond for Every Seat' Goal Near

The industry has accounted for approximately 10,000,000 sales of Fourth War Loan "E" bonds as of the end of last week, indicating that its self established goal of a bond sale for every one of the nation's 11,500,000 theatre seats will be realized by Feb. 29, the end of the sales period, the industry campaign committee, of which Charles P. Skouras is chairman, reported yesterday on the basis of records on hand and after consultation with the Treasury Department.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 23

HERBERT SORRELL, president of the Conference of Studio Unions and the painters' local; T. D. Wayne, representative of the machinists, and George Bradley of the building service employes will leave here March 6 for conferences at Pat Casey's New York office on March 10, on new contracts.

•

Samuel K. Winston, a member of the Motion Picture Editors Guild, will leave for England shortly to cut "Caesar and Cleopatra" for Gabriel Pascal under a reciprocal arrangement effected with the British Association of Cine-Technicians by Alvin Wendt, business representative of the MPEG. The Guild voted unanimously last night against the proposed affiliation with film technicians of IATSE.

•

N. Peter Rathvon, RKO-Radio president, and Mrs. Rathvon arrived here today by plane from Mexico City. He will spend a week in studio conferences with Charles Koerner, vice-president of the company.

•

Republic has signed Ray McCarey, formerly with RKO, to a producer-director contract. He will direct "Atlantic City," Technicolor musical, with Al Cohen producing, as his first.

•

H. A. McDonnell, Republic studio manager, will leave here on Feb. 29 for 10 days of home office conferences in the East.

•

Ruth Penney, former fashion editor of RKO's Hollywood studio, is a lieutenant (jg) in the WAVES, stationed at Norman, Okla.

•

William F. Rodgers, vice-president of Loew's, Inc., is expected here next Monday.

Restrict Juveniles In Times Square

Broadway theatre managers do not expect attendance at their houses to be affected by the new 10 o'clock restrictions for juveniles in the Times Square area, they stated yesterday.

Deputy Police Commissioner William Kent had instructed police to pick up girls under 16 who are not with parents or proper guardians. Irving Lesser, manager of the Roxy, said that nearly all those in that house late at night are beyond that age. Robert Weitman of the Paramount said that "only a handful" of youngsters attend that theatre after 10 o'clock, and other Broadway operators expressed like views.

Blackout for Buffalo

BUFFALO, Feb. 23.—This area will be blacked out Sunday night, March 5, from 9 to 10 P.M. in an air raid drill covering this city, Rochester, Batavia, Niagara Falls, Olean and Dunkirk, it was revealed by the office of the state director of civilian protection.

Personal Mention

CHARLES P. SKOURAS, B. V. STURDIVANT and A. J. KRAPPMAN will leave for the Coast today, and F. H. RICKETSON, JR. for his Denver headquarters. They plan to return to New York by the middle of March.

•

LIEUT. CECIL BLACK, formerly of the Winnipeg branch of Empire-Universal, has been appointed officer in charge of visual training for army camps at the Department of National Defenses, Ottawa.

•

LIEUT. JOHN. D. GARRARD, former assistant manager of the Atlas, Victoria, B. C., has been promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Canadian Navy.

•

JOSEPH DONAHUE, son of WALTER DONAHUE, assistant office manager for Columbia in Philadelphia, has joined the Navy. Another son is in the Army.

•

HENRY MORTON, who operates theatres in Winnipeg and Saskatoon in conjunction with Odeon, is on his way to San Francisco and Hollywood.

•

VERNE DIXON, head booker for Empire-Universal in Calgary, Alb., is the father of a girl, BEVERLY ANN, born last week.

•

SAM ROSEN, Monogram branch manager in Philadelphia, has returned from Atlantic City where he was recuperating from illness.

•

ALFRED J. DAVIS, 20th-Fox sales manager in Philadelphia, and MRS. DAVIS celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last Sunday.

•

DAVID KAY, theatrical backer and former Hollywood cameraman, will leave here for the Coast early in April.

•

CAPT. BERNARD COHEN, former manager of the Zephyr, Ottumwa, Ia., has been transfered to Windover Field, Utah.

•

JAMES J. GRADY, 20th-Fox district manager, visited the Cleveland exchange recently.

•

PHYLLIS PERKINS, Republic biller at Des Moines, has resigned and is to marry.

•

CAPT. EDWARD A. BYRON, former writer and producer, has returned to Washington from New Guinea.

•

M. A. MILLIGAN, operator of theatres in Hamilton, Ont., and St. Johns, is a New York visitor.

E. K. (TED) O'SHEA, M-G-M's Eastern division sales manager, will leave today for a tour of Southern exchanges.

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SIMON MERETSKY, operator of the Windsor, Toronto, is vacationing at Hot Springs, Ark. His brother, C. MERRITT, has returned to Windsor, Ont., from Florida.

•

LT. J. HENRY FOX, formerly of the Capitol Theatre, Scranton, Pa., is understood to have been interned in Falun, Sweden, after his plane was forced down following a raid on Germany.

•

RUDOLPH BERGER, M-G-M Washington district manager; HERMAN RIPPS, Albany manager; RALPH MAW, Buffalo, and BRYAN D. STONER, Pittsburgh, are visiting the home office.

•

LALOR JOYCE, manager of the Hippodrome, Scranton, Pa., became the father of a son born to MRS. JOYCE last week.

•

GEORGE TOOKER, Watkins Glen, N. Y. exhibitor, and MAX FOGEL, Rochester theatre owner, were in Buffalo this week.

•

GEORGE RAFT, back from a two-month USO Camp Show tour abroad, will return to Hollywood from New York in a few days.

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JOHN J. MALONEY, Central division manager for M-G-M, returned yesterday to his Pittsburgh headquarters after three days at the home office.

•

LEON BECK, booker for the Rome Circuit, Baltimore, will enter the Navy Monday as a lieutenant (j. g.).

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WALTER J. KENNEDY, general manager of Sovereign Film Distributors, Toronto, is touring Western Canada.

•

WILLIAM GUNZLEYMAN, 20th Century-Fox auditor, is in Buffalo this week from the home office.

•

KAY COCHRANE, RKO exchange cashier at Buffalo, has entered the Waves.

•

ELEANOR NOWAK of RKO's Buffalo exchange was married last week to STEWART SPENCER of the Army.

•

ALBERT COHEN, Republic producer, is expected in New York today from Atlantic City.

•

RAY THOMPSON, assistant manager of Warners' Boyd, Philadelphia, will leave soon for the Navy.

Brauenig Not Manager

Otto Brauenig, RKO auditor at Cleveland, has not been appointed office manager of the exchange there, as incorrectly stated yesterday, according to A. A. Schubart, home office manager of exchange operations. The post is still open; it was vacated by L. F. Blumenfeld, who resigned to join William N. Skirball Theatres as booker.

Ameche on Relief Board

Don Ameche has been appointed to the board of trustees for American relief to Italy, along with Myron Taylor, Arturo Toscanini, Major General John H. Hilldring and others. Ameche's appointment was designated by the Hollywood Victory Committee and the War Activities Committee here.

Americans in Para.'s British Pictures

LONDON, Feb. 23.—David Rose, Paramount's British managing director, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here that his company plans widely extended British production, but is insisting, in view of U. S. market requirements, that the scriptwriter, director and one star in each picture be Americans.

Rose said his company hopes to start production here in about two months. Meanwhile, arrangements for road-showing here of "For Whom the Bell Tolls" have been completed. Independent theatres in all key cities have booked the film for two showings daily beginning April 10. The picture has been selling out every night at London's Carlton Theatre. Monday night because of the renewed German air attack, the film failed to play to capacity.

SAG Hits Use of Stars in Night Clubs

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 23.—"Increasing use of screen celebrities", by night clubs to draw crowds in Hollywood and New York may require action by the Screen Actors Guild, the American Guild of Variety Artists and perhaps other units of the Four A's, a Screen Actors' Guild spokesman told MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

The Guild plans an "educational drive" to halt the use of film stars as guests. "The practice cuts into the employment of headline acts belonging to AGVA, who would otherwise be employed by the clubs to draw patrons," he said.

British Industry Will Honor Skouras

LONDON, Feb. 23.—British Film Producers Association, Cinematograph Exhibitors Association and the Kinematograph Renters Society will honor Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, at a luncheon at the Dorchester Hotel here on March 9. J. Arthur Rank will preside.

Skouras is here from New York on the company's present and post-war position both in England and on the Continent, and also is conferring with Rank on the company's interests in Gaumont-British.

Donald Stuart, Film Actor, Dies at 45

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 23.—Donald Stuart, film actor, 45, died here last night. Services will be held tomorrow in the Utter-McKinley Funeral Parlor.

Stuart's film appearances included parts in "A Yank in the R.A.F.," "Destination Unknown," "The Undying Monster" and "The Immortal Sergeant," all for 20th Century-Fox, and many others.

'Rationing' to Open

First openings of M-G-M's "Rationing" will take place today at Loew's in Richmond, Va., and Loew's Valentine, Toledo, O.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Chinese Film in Underground Caves

Hollywood, Feb. 23.—Production of motion pictures in war-torn China is now confined almost entirely to underground makeshift studios in rocky caves near Chungking, it was disclosed in a communication received here by James Wong Howe, Warner Bros. cameraman, from friends in the Chinese film industry.

The communication arrived by airmail carrying $73 worth of Chinese postage.

Canadian Gross Increased 12.3%

TORONTO, Feb. 23.—Canadian theatres had a gross of $46,461,097 in 1942, an increase of 12.3 per cent over the previous year with a total attendance of more than 183,000,000, an increase of 13 per cent, according to the government here.

Amusement taxes rose $11,713,165, making the grand total over $58,000,000 income for screen entertainment or $5.01 per capita.

Five hundred and three circuit theatres accounted for 70 per cent of the grosses and 66 per cent of the patronage while 549 independent houses secured 22 per cent of the total receipts.

Film exchanges reported total receipts of $14,313,904, a 12.3 per cent increase over the previous 12 months identical with the percentage increase in the aggregate theatre grosses exclusive of admission taxes.

Average admission price of 25.3 cents remained practically static because of the government's freezing of scales for the duration.

J. B. Sherry, Film Pioneer, Dies at 73

DARBY, Pa., Feb. 23.—J. Barney Sherry, 73, pioneer film actor and producer, died yesterday at Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital here. Sherry was one of the first stage actors to enter films.

In 1909 he and several other actors were sent to the West Coast by the New York Motion Picture Co., to set up a studio, and it is said theirs' was the first permanent one in California.

Sherry played in many outstanding pictures in the silent-film era, including "The White Sister," "The Eternal City," "Ben Hur," and the first film version of "Dixie." In 1905 he played the lead in Vitagraph's "Raffles." This was followed by "The Great Train Robbery." In 1915 Sherry became a lead for Triangle Film.

Before he retired to the Edwin Forrest Home for Actors in Philadelphia 18 months ago, Sherry appeared with the 69th St. Playhouse group in that city on several radio stations. Surviving is a niece, Mrs. Catherine Hulme of White Marsh, Pa.

Red Cross Breakfast

Henderson Van Sourdan, field director for the American Red Cross, will be the speaker on behalf of that organization at the motion picture theaters' Red Cross breakfast this morning in the Hotel Astor.

Review

"Million Dollar Kid"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, Feb. 23

THE East Side Kids—Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall, Gabriel Dell, Billy Benedict and associates—go earnest, emotional and considerably noble at several points in this otherwise standard Sam Katzman-Jack Dietz production, with mixed results. A theatre preview audience unprepared for what was coming laughed happily in the earlier stretches, where the toughies engage in characteristic ruffianisms, and hooted some during the tenderer passages later on. By and large, the picture is a bit of a dip below norm for the series.

The story and screenplay by Frank H. Young set forth that the East Side Kids, proud of their neighborhood, determine to put an end to stick-ups taking place there. They discover that a son of a wealthy man who has befriended them is involved with the holdup men and proceed, with many interpolated complications, to divert him from a life of crime. The cast includes, in addition to those named, Louise Currie, Noah Beery, Iris Adrian, Herbert Hayes, Robert Greig, Johnny Duncan, Stanley Brown, Patsy Moran, Mary Gordon, Al Stone and others. Wallace Fox directed and Barney Sarecky is credited as associate producer.

Running time 65 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 28.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Conn. Trust Suit Starts on March 7

Trial of the $5,000,000 Sherman anti-trust suit against Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, United Artists and others, filed in Connecticut Federal court by Fairfield Holding Corp. and Greenfield, Inc., will start in New Haven on March 7, papers filed in Federal court here yesterday revealed.

The plaintiffs, according to the papers filed, will examine Neil F. Agnew, vice president of Paramount, tomorrow, and Garrett Van Wagner, comptroller of RKO, on Feb. 29, both examinations to take place in the New York County Lawyers' Association Building.

Meeting Friday for Jewish Relief Show

A meeting to plan the "Show of Shows," to be held March 13 in Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, will be held tomorrow at 5 p.m., in the screening room of the Roxy Theatre here.

William Gaxton is honorary chairman of the entertainment group; co-chairmen are William Kent, Jack Bertell and Solly Pernick. Among those expected at the meeting are Sam Rauch, Robert Weitman, Arthur Knorr, Harry Levine, Nat Kalchein and Vincent Freedley. Plans to line up talent for the show will be made at the session.

Grossmith, Actor, Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 23.—Funeral services were held here today for Lawrence R. Grossmith, film actor, 66, who died this week. Burial will be in New York.

Grossmith was born in London, a member of a stage family. He made his debut on the London stage in 1896 and appeared in New York and Australia. In films, both British and American, since 1933, his last appearance was in Warner Bros.' "No Time for Comedy." He is survived by a brother, George Grossmith.

Communistic Studio Influences Charged

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—That "it is now possible in some studios to find associated in one picture a writer, director and producer who are at least sympathetic followers of Communism," was charged last night by James K. McGuinness, executive committee chairman of the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals, at an American Legion "Americanization" meeting in Patriotic Hall here.

McGuinness declared three such men can control the insertion of propaganda into films. "We intend to stop this misuse of pictures," he said. "We are going to make our fight within the industry because the vast majority of the industry is composed of loyal, substantial, freedom-loving citizens."

Sam Wood, president of the MPA; George Bruce, executive secretary; Howard E. Rogers, vice-president; Col. Rupert Hughes, Capts. Clark Gable and John Lee Mahin, were introduced, with Gable and Hughes making short talks.

Claims Distributors Can Pick Customers

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Attorney Miles G. Seeley in opening arguments for the defendants in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust trial at the close of the plaintiff's case this afternoon said, "Traders have freedom of action. The distributors have the right to select their own customers and the state has not yet been reached where traders' customers are selected by the Government."

Sturges in Charge of Hughes' Film Affairs

Howard Hughes, who recently joined Preston Sturges in a new producing company, has given the latter full control and direction of all of his motion picture activities, according to a statement released here yesterday.

Hughes said he cannot devote any time to the film business until the war is over.

Monogram's Plans Outlined by Broidy

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—"More bigger pictures, product that will stand up in today's competitive market, will be produced by Monogram next season," Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager of Monogram, told over 100 exhibitors at a luncheon today at the Bellevue-Stratford here.

The affair, held in tribute to W. Ray Johnston, president of the company, and Broidy, in recognition of their joint 50 years of service in the industry, was attended by: Ted Schlanger, Warner zone manager; Sidney E. Samuelson, general manager of Eastern Pennsylvania Allied; Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Censors, and James A. Clark, head of the Horlacher Film Delivery Service.

Monogram officials present included Harry Thomas, Eastern district manager; George West, Cincinnati branch manager; Max Fellerman, producer, and Sam Rosen, local branch manager.

Monogram Hit for Policy on 'Children'

Monogram Pictures is criticized by M. A. Rosenberg, president of Allied of Western Pennsylvania, for allegedly refusing to permit Monogram customers to date its special, "Where Are Your Children?", unless they date all previous Monogram releases before or at the time of dating the special.

In a bulletin received here yesterday from Rosenberg's headquarters in Pittsburgh, it was also charged that, "for those who have not as yet contracted for the entire Monogram product, the terms asked (we are informed) are equal to those of any established major production.

W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, and Steve Broidy, sales manager, were out of town yesterday when sought for comment on Rosenberg's charges.

Film Classics Gets 3 Branches; Dunn Joins

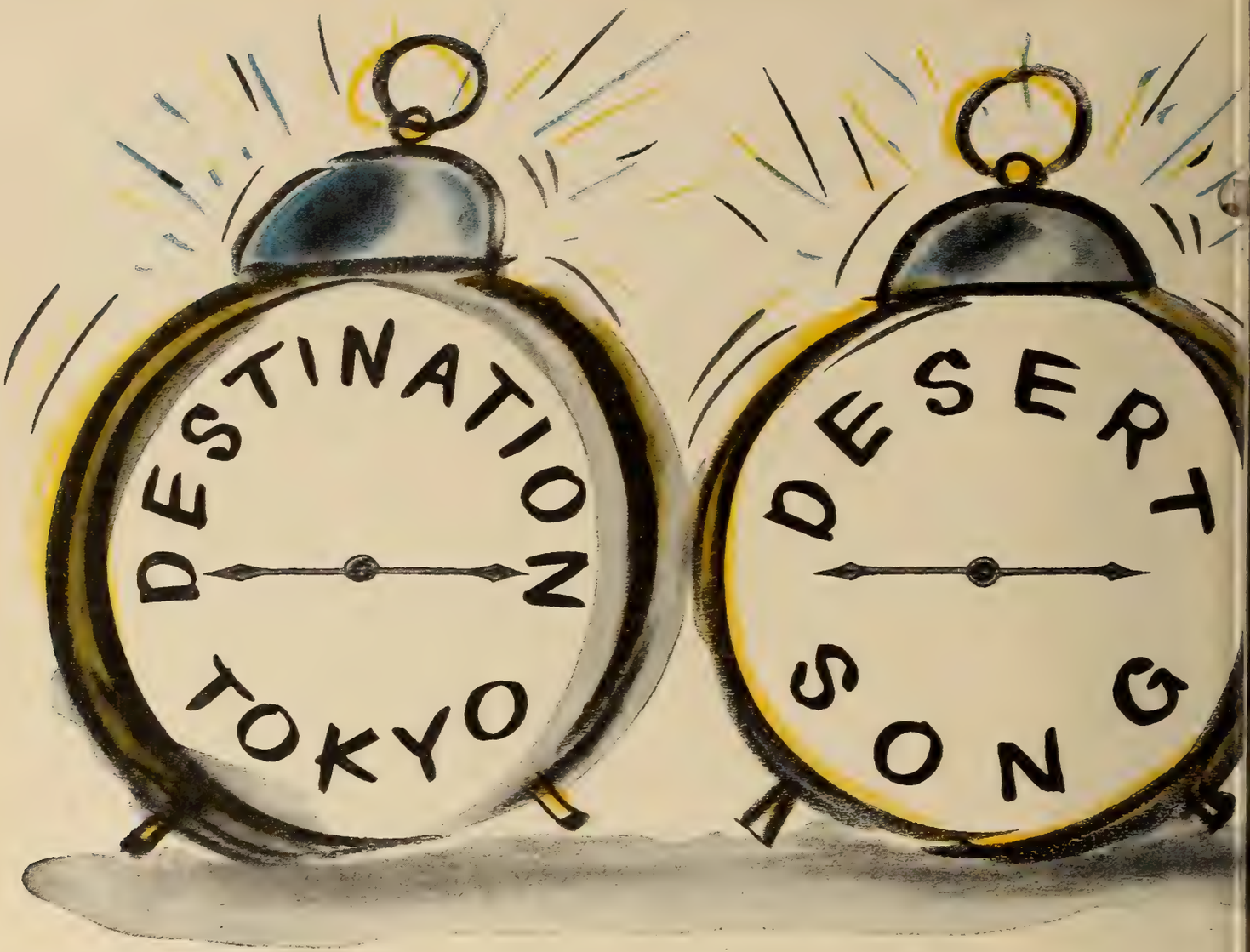
Film Classics has added exchanges at Los Angeles, San Francisco and Philadelphia.

Robert L. Lippert, West Coast exhibitor, will head the new Film Classics of Northern California; personnel of the Los Angeles exchange will soon be made known, while Sol Krugman, formerly of United Artists, and Jack Engel, who has resigned from an RKO-Radio sales post March 4, have organized Film Classics of Philadelphia. Jack Greenberg, Philadelphia exhibitor, will be associted with them.

Harold Dunn, former managing director of Warners' Far East division, has become head of Film Classics' New York exchange, which will hereafter be known as Film Classics Distributing Co. The company also has exchanges in New Haven, Boston, Washington, Charlotte, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and St. Louis.

Paramount Trade Shows

Trade showings of Paramount's fourth block will begin here today, when "You Can't Ration Love," "The Navy Way" and "The Hour Before Dawn" will be screened at the 20th-Fox exchange. "Going My Way" will be shown at the Normandie Theatre tomorrow.



. . . all at the

REMEMBER! March 15th Deadline for



same time !!!

THIS IS TYPICAL WARNER STUFF!

'Children' Bids For Record in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—Business continues satisfactory here, aided considerably this week by new openings and favorable weather. Three openings dominate with "Jane Eyre" at the Boyd pointing to $27,400 and "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" at the Stanley hitting $26,500, plus $4,200 extra for the dual Sunday showing at the Earle.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 23-25:

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
ALDINE—(900) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,200. (Average: $14,600).
"Thousands Cheer" (M-G-M)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $8,200. (Average: $4,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $27,400. (Average: $18,000).
"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO) (6 days)
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville including Shep Fields' orchestra, Mary Healy, Meredith Blake, Low, Hite & Stanley and The Yacopi Troupe. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $27,800).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,700. (Average: $20,500).
"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,200. (Average: $6,600).
"The North Star" (RKO)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $5,800).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
MASTBAUM — (4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. 3rd week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $22,500).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
STANLEY — (3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $20,000).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mon.)
STANTON — (1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $16,800. (Average: $9,400).

Average Is $12,700, 'Joe' Gets $25,000

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 23.—Capacity business, plus rapid turnovers due to playing only one feature, resulted in a $25,000 gross for "A Guy Named Joe" at Loew's State this week. "What a Woman!" at the Strand and "Ali Baba" at RKO-Albee held up nicely in second weeks. "Happy Land" was headed for a nice $15,000 at the Majestic.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 24:

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,800. (Average: $12,800).
"What a Woman!" (Col.)
"The Racket Man" (Col.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,500).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $17,700).
"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"Weekend Pass" (Univ.)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,100).
"Frisco Kid" (WB)
"Million Dollar Baby" (WB)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,900. (Average, $4,000).
"Men On Her Mind" (PRC)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: Dr. Hugo Kosloff, Katherine Byrnes Trio, Cina and Cortez, Moore and Bergh, Patricia Adair, Harris and Sawyers. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,500).
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
METROPOLITAN — (3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Marcy McGuire. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $7,900).

Off the Antenna

STATION WMCA in New York will sell time for controversial discussion if responsible groups on both sides buy time for presentation of their case, Nathan Straus, WMCA president, says, adding: The policy is designed to safeguard "freedom to listen" and is said to be a departure from the National Association of Broadcasters' code which prohibits the sale of all time for controversial discussion. . . . Bob Hope, Fibber McGee and Molly, Charlie McCarthy, Jack Benny and the Aldrich Family are placed in that order in the latest Hooper Survey of the first 15 on the air. Red Skelton continues to lead programs broadcast after 10:30 p.m., which are not measured in the Eastern time zone. . . .

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Purely Personal: *Eleanor Kilgallen will join CBS on March 16 as casting director, replacing Winifred Law who is resigning to join her husband in Chicago. . . . Announcers Ed Thorgersen, Alois Havrilla and Ben Grauer have given vocal variety to the narration of "Norway Replies," first official report of Norway's contribution to the United Nation's fight against Fascism which will have its world premiere at the Stanley Theatre in New York tomorrow. . . . Deems Taylor is one of the judges in the RKO "Snow White" contest being conducted by WLW in Cincinnati and which ends tomorrow. . . . Richard McDonah is the new assistant manager of the NBC script division; Charles Newton is an addition to the staff. . . . Rudolph Vavpetich, Richard DuBois and George Seaman have joined the staff of National Concert and Artists Corp. . . .*

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Program Notes: Jeanette MacDonald and Perry Como will be guest stars on the premiere program of the new RCA show "Music America Loves Best" on the Blue on March 4. . . . A new Westinghouse Blue network program which starts on March 13 will feature Sally Sweetland. . . . CBS audiences will hear the four guest conductors engaged by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra for the 1944-45 season; the conductors: Pierre Monteaux, Igor Stravinsky, George Szell and Leonard Bernstein. . . . CBS' Lux Radio Theatre will present a radio version of 20th Century-Fox's "Guadalcanal Diary" on Monday with William Bendix, Preston Foster and Lloyd Nolan recreating their film roles. . . . Warners' "Three Men On a Horse" is the selection of the CBS "Screen Guild Players" for Monday. . . . A portion of the new Mutual series, "Wide Horizons," featuring Eddie Dowling, will be televised weekly over DuMont's W2XWV starting with the premiere on Sunday.

Big $24,500 for 'Happy' and Dorsey

BUFFALO, Feb. 23.—"Happy Land" and Jimmy Dorsey and his orchestra on the stage were bidding for one of the biggest grosses in months here at the Buffalo. The figure is expected to go to $24,500. It was a bangup weekend all around with Washington's Birthday helping.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 26:

Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
BUFFALO — (3,489) (40c-65c) 7 days. Jimmy Dorsey and orchestra on stage, with Paul Carley, Gladys Tell, Buddy Schutz, Peg-Leg Bates, Coley Worth and Marcia. Gross: $24,500. (Average at 35c-40c-55c-65c: $17,400).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $20,800. (Average: $16,600).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
HIPPODROME — (2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week moveover. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $9,700).
"Desert Song" (WB)
"Gangway For Tomorrow" (RKO)
TWENTIETH CENTURY — (3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $12,200).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"She Has What It Takes" (Col.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $12,400).

Barrett Back from Army

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 23.—Dean R. Barrett, who was at Warner's Central Theatre in West Hartford prior to his induction, has been honorably discharged from the Army and is now assistant to Frank Morin at the Warner Regal here.

'Bernadette' Doubles Baltimore Gross

BALTIMORE, Feb. 23.—Major attractions are "The Song of Bernadette," at the New Theatre, seating only 1,581 and heading for $20,000 at advanced prices, and "A Guy Named Joe," taking $21,000 at the Century.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 24:

"The Desert Song" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,280) 28c-40c-50c-55c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $16,900).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $16,000).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(2,406) (30c-35c-40c-44c-55c) 6 days. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $13,900).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (83c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average at regular prices: $10,300).
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
HIPPODROME — (2,205) (28c-30c-45c-55c-66c) 7 days. Stage Show: Bobby Sherwood and his orchestra, Virginia Weidler; Nancy Healy. Keaton and Armfield. Gross: $18,100. (Average: $17,500).
"There's Something About a Soldier" (Col.)
MAYFAIR — (1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,400).
"Saludos Amigos" (U. S.-Disney)
"Gildersleeve's Bad Boy" (RKO)
MARYLAND — (1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,500).

23 'Bridge' Openings

United Artists' "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," has been booked for early March runs in 23 key city Loew Theatres, Carl Leserman, U. A.'s general sales manager, reported this week. The film will open at the Capitol here on March 2.

'Joe' Heading for A Record $27,000 In St. Louis Run

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 23.—"A Guy Named Joe" is packing them in at Loew's State this week for what looks like a big $27,000, which will set some sort of a record for the theatre at the present price scale. With mild weather on tap, business is good at all first runs.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 23:

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Spider Woman" (Univ.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $18,700).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
AMBASSADOR — (3,154) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $15,700).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $18,900).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
MISSOURI—(3,154) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,900).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Jeannie" (English Films)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM — (1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average. $7,100).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"North Star" (RKO-Goldwyn)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,100).
"Iron Major" (RKO)
"The Fallen Sparrow" (RKO)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,200).

$19,000 for Durbin Picture in Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 23.—There can be no question of the popularity of Deanna Durbin in the Hub. Keith's Memorial, with "His Butler's Sister," is going into its third week jammed to new records, to get $19,000. Another big hit has been "Jeannie," English picture.

Estimated box office receipts for the week ending Feb. 24:

"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"Weekend Pass" (Univ.)
KEITH MEMORIAL—(2,900) (44c-55c-65c). Gross: $19,000. (Average: $15,500).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
METROPOLITAN—(4,367) (44c-55c-65c). Gross: $26,000. (Average: $20,300).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(2,900) (44c-55c-65c). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $23,800).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c). Gross: $9,800. (Average: $10,800).
"Old Acquaintance" (WB)
"Minesweeper" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT — (1,700) (44c-55c-65c). Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,800).
"Jeannie" (Gaumont)
MAJESTIC—(1,400) (34c-44c-55c). Gross: $10,800. (Average: $7,500).
"Jeannie" (Gaumont)
NORMANDIE—(900) (44c-55c). Gross: $7,600. (Average: $5,700).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
RKO BOSTON—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c-85c-99c). Gross: $27,600. (Average: $23,800).

'Navy' Opening March 24

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Paramount's "The Navy Way" is scheduled for its world premiere March 24 at Waukegan, according to Allen Usher, district manager, William Pine, producer of the picture, is expected here March 2 to approve arrangements. Waukegan was chosen because of its proximity to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station where the picture was filmed.



Interviewer: Miss Goddard, do you think your new picture can maintain Paramount's terrific comedy record of five laugh hits in a row?

It's another "Miracle" from Paramount





"Standing Room Only"

I see the "Hollywood Reporter' says: "If 'SRO' doesn't live up to its title at every box office in this country, then this country has gone off the laugh standard.





Washington's sense of humor must be okay. Our first five premiere days there topped "Dixie"



Starring

Paulette Goddard

and # *Fred MacMurray*



That's a swell title. I hear it's all about you and Fred playing cook and butler to get a room in Washington.

Film Daily says "The title hints the kind of business it will do"



with Edward Arnold
Roland Young
Hillary Brooke · Porter Hall



What's cooking—
besides you—in this
Paramount picture?

"Fred MacMurray will tell America all about it on the air March 3rd*





*On the Kate Smith Hour over 121 Stations reaching 25,000,000 listeners!

Directed by Sidney Lanfield

"His best job of direction since My Favorite Blonde'," says Hollywood Reporter

Screen Play by Darrell Ware and Karl Tunberg

It's PARAMOUNT Again!

'Seabees' Grosses $24,150 in Denver

DENVER, Feb. 23.—"Fighting Seabees" on a dual at the Denver was leading downtown theatres with a gross of $24,150 expected. The Denham, showing "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek," was second with $16,500, and "Around the World," on a dual at the Paramount, scored $13,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 22-25:

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
ALADDIN — (1,400) (30c-40c-50c-60c), moveover. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,000).
"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
"Career Girl" (PRC)
BROADWAY — (1,040) (30c-40c-50c-60c), moveover. Gross: $3,125. (Average: $2,500).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
DENHAM — (1,750) (30c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $7,000).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
DENVER—(2,600) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $24,150. (Average: $13,000).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
ESQUIRE—(740) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,250. (Average: $3,000).
"Around the World" (RKO)
"Racket Man" (Col.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,200) (30c-40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $9,000).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
RIALTO—(900) (40c-50c-60c-65c), moveover. Gross: $9,200. (Average: $4,600)

'Joe's Big $25,000 Leads Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 23.—Soaring attendance records here this week ended a box-office slump. "A Guy Named Joe" led the town with a promised $25,000 at the Penn, probably heading for a holdover.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 22-25:

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $8,100).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $10,100).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $19,800).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 4th week, moveover after one week at the Penn, two at Warners. Gross: $2,700. (Average: $2,700).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover after two weeks at the Harris. Gross: $3,600. (Average: $3,400).
"Woman of the Town" (UA)
STANLEY—(3,800) (35c-50c-75c). On stage: Six days of vaudeville, including "Latin Quarter Revue." Gross: $18,000. (Average: $20,900).
"Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Penn. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,500).

Cleveland Variety To Install Officers

CLEVELAND, Feb. 23.—The local Variety Club will install it new officers here Saturday night. The program includes a screening of "Desert Song" followed by a reception in the club rooms and dinner at the Hollenden Hotel.

Officers to be installed are: Charles Kranze, RKO branch manager, chief barker; Meyer Fine, Associate Circuit, 1st vice-barker; M. B. Horowitz, Washington circuit, 2nd vice-barker; E. R. Bergman, 20th-Fox city salesman, secretary; and I. J. Schwartz, 20th-Fox branch manager, treasurer.

Review

"Nabonga"

(PRC)

"NABONGA" (the Gorilla) is a natural for all who enjoy jungle tales. Fred Myton's screenplay has the mystic elements and suspense-laden moments of the Edgar Rice Burroughs Tarzan stories—and there are no spy rings to complicate the narrative. The gorilla, "Nabonga," is pictured in deep and mysterious jungles caring for a white girl.

The plane of Herbert Rawlinson, jewel thief, fleeing from the law with his young daughter, Jackie Newfield, crashes in the jungle, but the child survives. Buster Crabbe appears to clear his father, who was implicated in Rawlinson's flight from the authorities. In his search for the lost jewels, Crabbe encounters Barton MacLane and Fifi D'Orsay, who are also seeking them. Crabbe finds the treasure first and meets Julie London, the girl grown up, and her gorilla protector. MacLane and Miss D'Orsay arrive, but "Nabonga" settles the question of who gets the jewels by killing the unscrupulous pair, dying, however, from wounds inflicted by MacLane before his death. Crabbe convinces Miss London she should return to civilization with him and return the loot to its rightful owners.

Though much of the material in the film consists of stock shots, particularly the jungle life sequences, "Nabonga" has its share of excitement for action-seeking patrons. Sigmund Neufeld produced and Sam Newfield directed. Miss London, in her film debut, is pleasing, while Crabbe, MacLane and Miss D'Orsay are adequate. Supporting cast includes Bryant Washburn and Prince Modup.

Running time, 72 mins. "G."* HELEN MCNAMARA

"Voodoo Man"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, Feb. 23

BELA LUGOSI, John Carradine and George Zucco are the names with which to tell the chiller-thriller fans that producers Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz have turned out for them another melodrama patterned to their liking. This one fractures plausibility no more than most, tips its ending a little early for best results and sets no record in the realm of the imaginative, but it serves its purpose. Barney Sarecky served as associate director and William Beaudine directed.

The script by Robert Charles, from his own original, concerns a doctor who has kept his dead wife physically alive in zombie state for 22 years and seeks, with the aid of a voodoo man who also operates a gasoline station, to find a young woman whose mind he can transfer to his benumbed beloved. After four tries which net him as many more zombies to take care of, he gets caught up with in the fifth attempt (by a Hollywood scenarist, no less) and is shot by a sheriff.

The supporting cast includes Wanda McKay, Louise Currie, Michael Ames, Ellen Hall, Terry Walker, Mary Currier, Claire James and others.

Running time, 62 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 21.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'A Guy Named Joe's' $13,500 Is Good

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 23.—Local patrons are giving "A Guy Named Joe," at Loew's, first choice this week; it will do $13,500. At the Circle "The Fighting Seabees" is expected to gross $12,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 22-24:

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
CIRCLE — (2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,800).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"Weekend Pass" (Univ.)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,600).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S — (2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $11,500).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Voodoo Man" (Mono.)
LYRIC — (2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $4,900).

'Harvest Moon' Premiere

World premiere for Warner's "Shine on Harvest Moon" has been set for Mar. 10 at the Strand Theatre in New York, to follow the run of "In Our Time."

'Morgan' with 'Music' Gross Nice $13,100

OMAHA, Feb. 23.—The Orpheum, without a stage show for the first time in a number of weeks, grossed $13,100 on "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and "Larceny with Music." "Destination Tokyo" did $10,900 at the Paramount, and "Northern Pursuit" gave the Omaha its best week in some time at $9,400. Weather was warmer, but snow still packed the streets.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 23-24:

"The Oklahoma Kid" (WB reissue)
"Pistol Packin' Mama" (Rep.)
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $6,900. (Average: $6,900).
"Northern Pursuit" (WB)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $9,400. (Average: $7,900).
"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
"Larceny with Music" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $13,100. (Average: $10,100).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,900. (Average: $11,700).

'Joe's $27,500 Is Cleveland Leader

CLEVELAND, Feb. 23.—Good weather over the weekend and the holiday combined to bolster takes here with "A Guy Named Joe" heading the parade. The picture is expected to pull a big $27,500 at Loew's State. "The Lodger" at RKO's Palace and a satisfactory stage show got off to a good start, heading for $35,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 23:

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $8,500).
"North Star" (RKO)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $22,100).
"Sahara" (Col.)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3d week. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $3,200).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3d week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,000).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Beatrice Kay, D'Artega All Girl orchestra, Grace McDonald, Watson Sisters, 7 days. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $25,400).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE — (3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $27,500. (Average: $19,000).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $10,000).

Loew's Makes Shifts In New York Area

Joseph Citron, assistant manager of Loew's State here, has been appointed manager of the Apollo, succeeding Larry Samuels, who has entered the Navy. Edward Schwartz, assistant of the Metropolitan, Brooklyn, moves into the State as assistant.

Shifts of other assistants include Charles Levinson from the 167th St. to the Metropolitan; Sylvia Sharfman from the Burnside to the 167th Street; Margaret Robinson from the Dyckman to the Burnside; Milton Schwartz from the Premier to the Kings; Henry Shamp from the Melba to the Premier.

Harold Zeltner, assistant of the Kings, leaves the theatre department of Loew's to join the M-G-M sales force in Buffalo.

Cowan Set on 'Your War' and 'Tomorrow'

"Here Is Your War" and "Tomorrow the World" will be placed before the cameras simultaneously within a few weeks, Lester Cowan, United Artists producer, announced upon his arrival here this week. The former film will have a 35-day location schedule at Indio, Cal., and other Army training centers.

While Cowan is in the East, principals of the New York and Chicago companies of "Tomorrow the World" will be tested. Victor Wolfson is now polishing the script.

WB Changes in Conn.

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 23.—Warner Bros. personnel changes in this area include the transfer of Charles Craig, formerly of the Torrington Commodore Hull Theatre to the South Norwalk Rialto, where he succeeds Fred Raimo, now in the Army. John Scanlon, Jr., has been moved from the Tremont, Ansonia, to the Palace, Torrington, and Earl Crawford, formerly with RKO, Trenton, N. J., has been named manager of Warners' Merritt in Bridgeport.

The critics say





about Danny Kaye, th











PATRIOTIC SHOWMEN: RED CROSS DRIVE
MARCH 23 THROUGH MARCH 29!



SAMUEL GOLDWYN'S

UP IN ARMS

IN TECHNICOLOR

with

DANNY KAYE

DINAH SHORE · DANA ANDREWS

CONSTANCE DOWLING

and the gorgeous GOLDWYN GIRLS

Associate Producer DON HARTMAN · Directed by ELLIOTT NUGENT

Original Screen Play by Don Hartman, Allen Boretz and Robert Pirosh

Released Through RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

oh KAYE

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US - READ 'EM!

M. P. HERALD:
"Danny Kaye clicks with a loud click and establishes himself as a star in his first picture."

VARIETY:
"Picture is fine and will hit healthy biz and holdovers. Danny Kaye definitely star material."

M. P. DAILY:
"Real entertainment that will please the exhibitor as much as his customers."

FILM DAILY:
"Danny Kaye is tremendous in his picture bow . . . An entertainment bombshell headed for top grosses."

BOXOFFICE:
"Gay, glittering, glamorous . . . It's a long time since films have witnessed debut of a more versatile comedian than Danny Kaye."

SHOWMEN'S TR.REVIEW:
"It's lavish, stunning, full of melody and — most of all — it's hilarious. A guaranteed cure for any sour-puss."

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER:
"It's in the bag — and in the money . . . Should write new box-office history."

HOLLYWOOD VARIETY:
"Danny Kaye socks with his brisk, antic, highly personalized brand of comedy."

FILM BULLETIN:
"Put down Danny Kaye as the great comic discovery of recent years."

Next Attraction RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

Short Subject Reviews

"Grandfather's Follies"
(*Warners*)

Here is one of the most entertaining shorts seen in a long time. It will both delight older folks and amuse the youngsters. Featured are fine impersonations of such one-time "greats" as Lillian Russell, Maggie Cline, Harrigan and Hart, Chauncey Olcott and Eddie Foy. Highlighted are songs which characterized the era of the 90's, including "When the Robins Nest Again," "While Strolling Through the Park," "Throw Him Down, McCloskey," "Dear Old Girl," "In My Merry Oldsmobile," "Come, Josephine, In My Flying Machine," "On the Banks of the Wabash" and "After the Ball." Jean Negulesco directed. Running time, 20 mins.

"Tom Turk and Daffy"
(*Warners*)

Porky Pig pursues a turkey with an eye to a good dinner. The fowl is taken in by Daffy Duck who sympathizes but temptation overcomes the duck who is hungry too. The turkey gets away after a wild chase. This is a very entertaining cartoon. Leon Schlesinger produced. Carl V. Stalling's music score is delightful. Running time, 9 mins.

"Dogie Round-Up"
(*Warner Bros.*)

"Dogie Round-Up" is an interesting account of behind-the-scenes activities on a cattle ranch. The color camera has caught all the beauty of the Wyoming ranch land. Knox Manning handles the commentary well. The film, which is both interesting and educational, was produced by Blumenthal and Heilner and directed by Andre De La Varre. Running time, 10 mins.

"Hiawatha's Rabbit Hunt"
(*Warner Bros.*)

Little Hiawatha tries to capture Bugs Bunny. Bugs is in and out of the soup kettle several times and finally succeeds in foiling the young Brave. "Hiawatha's Rabbit Hunt," in Technicolor, is good entertainment. The music score is well arranged. Running time, 7 mins.

British Promise Halt to Expansion

(*Continued from page* 1)

excess of those controlled by J. Arthur Rank.

Dalton paid tribute to Mrs. Maxwell and Milder for their public spiritedness. This supplements previous similar assurances by Rank on further expansion. Commenting tonight, Milder said that the assurances would enable ABPC to devote its energies and funds to the improvement of its existing houses.

Average Exhibitor Wants More Decree Information

(*Continued from page* 1)

new decree proposals to form any opinion of them, many stated.

Among those who agreed that publication in the trade press of the decree proposals would be of "great help" to the rank-and-file exhibitor was Leon Rosenblatt of the Rosenblatt-Welt circuit, New York, who was a member of the ITOA delegation which conferred with Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark in Washington on the proposals two weeks ago.

Following are more of the exhibitor statements:

"Trade Press Sketchy"

JOSEPH M. STERN, *manager of the St. George Playhouse,* 100 *Pineapple St., Brooklyn,* asserted that his knowledge of the distributors' proposals would be enhanced, if the trade press had been allowed to come out with a little more of it. It's been very sketchy—not very comprehensive." The St. George is a neighborhood second-run house.

IRVING RENNER, *president of the Endicott Circuit, Inc., Brooklyn,* indicated that he had just read "dribs and drabs in the trade press—and not the entire text." He expressed a belief that "the old decree didn't do anything for us—and the new one won't."

Renner, who controls nine neighborhood houses, practically all of which are last-run, agreed that discussion in the trade press would aid the average exhibitor in better understanding the decree.

Although Renner is partly affiliated with the ITOA through some of his houses, he has not been able to read a copy of the decree which that organization has available in its office, he said.

IRVING LUDWIG, *booker for Rugoff & Becker, Manhattan,* said: "Frankly, I haven't digested it as yet. I've looked at it rather hazily in *Motion Picture Herald.*" His reaction to the excerpts of distributors' proposals was "mixed." "Certain things in it are better than the old decree and certain other things haven't been worked out as yet," he said.

With reference to trade press discussion of the decree he said: "I agree that there should have been more publicity; it has been coming out in so many different forms that in view of what has to be done, there should be a complete discussion."

Ludwig stated R & B was a member of Allied and operated 13 neighborhood houses which are subsequent runs.

Publicity Would Help

SAMUEL RHONHEIMER, *owner of the Samuel Rhonheimer Circuit, Brooklyn,* stated that although he has seen the text of the decree as a member of the ITOA of New York., "trade press publicity would help." Rhonheimer said his stand on the decree was similar to that of the ITOA and added that discussion in the trade press, would have a salutary effect. The circuit consists of five neighborhood theatres, which are second-runs in their respective localities.

LEON ROSENBLATT, *secretary-treasurer of Rosenblatt-Welt Theatres, New York City,* said of the consent decree, "Only one out of a thousand exhibitors knows about it. If the trade press were to print and discuss the decree, it would be a great help to everybody. When you have something that's good," he said, "you show it," referring to his opinion attributing secrecy to the decree to the fact that "they were ashamed of it."

Rosenblatt was a member of the ITOA delegation that discussed the decree proposals with the Department of Justice in Washington.

"The best thing to do," he said, "is to take the damn thing and throw it away; it's worse than the first one.

House Will Act on Tax Bill Veto Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

tonight were predicting that President Roosevelt's veto of the tax bill, which gave rise immediately to more turmoil than Capitol Hill has seen in many months, could be overridden. If that is true, the tax bill, and with it the new Federal admissions tax, will be made law. Some Congressional quarters were not so sure that the required two-thirds majority could be marshaled in both Houses to override the veto. In that case, no new tax law is likely to be enacted for many months.

The President's vetoing message to Congress yesterday caused the resignation of Senator Alben W. Barkley as Democratic majority leader of the upper house.

W. T. Huber Services

CINCINNATI, Feb. 23.—Services for William T. Huber, 74, retired exhibitor, who formerly operated houses in nearby Findlay, Fostoria, and Tiffin, will be held here tomorrow. Huber died Monday after a long illness. Surviving are a widow and son.

Casey Gets Demands From SOEG, MPEG

(*Continued from page* 1)

under the "Little Steel" formula. MPEG wants vacations with pay, sick leave, severance allowances graduated upwards from a week's pay for employes with one year's service, and wage increases approximating 40 per cent.

Casey will leave here for New York at the end of the week to prepare for the forthcoming negotiations with IATSE. He will be joined there later by the studio labor heads, including Fred S. Meyer of 20th-Fox.

Mrs. Dillemuth Dies

BUFFALO, Feb. 23.—Mrs. Carrie D. Dillemuth, 72, veteran theatre owner of Eggertsville, died here recently. Mrs. Dillemuth owned and operated the Eggertsville Lyceum with her son Henry. She was a member of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of New York State.

Zoeltner to M-G-M

BUFFALO, Feb. 23.—Harold Zoeltner, formerly with Loew's in New York City, has been named to the local M-G-M exchange sales staff.

ODT Urges Dropping Trade Conventions

Washington, Feb. 23.—Industry was urged again this week by Joseph B. Eastman, ODT director, to abandon all conventions and trade shows unless leaders "are thoroughly convinced that the meetings will help to shorten the war." Motion picture conventions are numerous during Spring and early Summer.

Eastman said some groups, failing to heed his earlier pleas, had led others to go ahead with meetings which they had promised to call off. He added that he could not forbid gatherings because such an order would violate constitutional guarantees. "The months ahead will be a very crucial time for transportation in this country," Eastman concluded.

Samartano Sells Five Times Bond Quota

Seventeen Loew's theatres have passed their seat quotas in the 4th War Loan Bond drive, several have doubled their quotas, and one theatre has sold five and one-half times its capacity.

In town, the Astor, American and Kameo have doubled quotas, while the Paradise, Boro Park, Pitkin, 46th Street, 42nd Street and Premier have passed their quotas.

Out-of-town, Loew's Poli in Meriden, Conn., Joseph Samartano, manager, sold five and one-half times its quota. The Columbia, in Washington, and the State, Norfolk, have doubled quotas, while the Regent, Harrisburg; State, Cleveland; Poli Palace, Hartford; Colonial, Reading, and Majestic in Bridgeport have passed quotas.

Comerford Makes Managerial Changes

SCRANTON, Pa. Feb. 23.—Comerford Theatres has made the following changes in personnel: John Comerford, former district manager in the Pittston area has been transferred to the Wilkes-Barre territory, succeeding T. V. Killeen who will report for duty with the U.S. Marine Corps; George Bittinger, former manager of the Sunbury Strand replaces Comerford in Pittston area while Bruce Hause takes over the Strand.

Albert Schaeffer, former manager of the Selinsgrove Stanley will replace Hause at the Savoy in Northumberland and John Kenderling will manage the Stanley.

Goldberg to Florida

Lou Goldberg of the 20th-Fox home office exploitation department left here over the weekend for Miami Beach to handle details on Darryl F. Zanuck's "The Purple Heart" world premiere at the Lincoln, Miami and Capitol Theatres there on March 1.

BIS to Honor Watt

Harry Watt, who produced "Target for Tonight" and "London Can Take It," will be guest at a reception to be given tomorrow by the British Information Service at the New Weston Hotel here.

Theatres Urged to Bolster Advertising

(*Continued from page* 1)

to the day of merchandising and advertising," Bergman said. "Therefore, advertising becomes a major project in any type of showmanship. It is my contention that exhibitors are failing to institutionalize the theatre; to make advertising refreshing; to break away from the conventions; to spend enough money; and to have a long range view," he said.

He posed six questions to exhibitors: "What necessary investigations should be made for new markets or new patronage for motion pictures in view of the possible decline in post-war patronage?; How should we change and project our advertising and merchandising to create extra markets?; To what extent should we change our selling methods, which may be necessary in post-war business?; What should we do to create more good will for the local theatre and the industry?; What should be done to keep the good name of the theatre alive?; What are we doing to maintain contacts in our communities for emergencies that may develop after the war?"

Goldenson Speaks

Leonard Goldenson, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, answered some of Bergman's questions in the discussion that followed. He said that the present quality of films will sell the industry to the new patrons who are swelling theatre attendance to what he said is a 100,000,000-a-week mark. He revealed that the accepted formula of spending a percentage of the gross of a theatre for advertising eventually approached a saturation point.

David Weinstock, Raybond Theatres head, another speaker, cited the fact that subsequent-run theatres had to offer services to compete with circuit houses and that advertising could not help them. Sam Rinzler, Randforce Theatres head, concurred with this.

Others on the dais included Vincent Trotta, AMPA president; James Zabin, vice president, who was toastmaster; Robert Weitman, Hal Horne, Fred Schwartz, Max Cohen, Walter Neithold and Constance Moore.

Quigley 1944 Awards Judging on Feb. 28

(*Continued from page* 1)

showmen's promotions which have survived the quarterly judgings for the Quigley Awards's 11th annual competition. In addition, the second Quigley "War Showmanship Award" will be made.

Martin Quigley, editor-in-chief and president of Quigley Publishing Co., will preside at the luncheon and some outstanding industry personalities will be guest speakers.

Awards will consist of the Silver Grand Award and the Bronze Grand Award and a certificate of citation for the outstanding feat of war showmanship. Last year's winners were: Louis Charninsky, Silver Award winner; Edward Fitzpatrick, Bronze Award winner, and Jack Matlack, War Showmanship Award winner.

Depinet, Robbins and Brandt to Aid Red Cross

(*Continued from page* 1)

to the earlier appointments of Harry Goldberg, Warner Theatre ad-publicity director, as campaign manager; Leon J. Bamberger, RKO promotion manager, as assistant to Depinet, and Smakwitz.

District chairmen will aid Depinet and his distributor division, as follows:

Metropolitan district: New York, Ralph Pielow, B. Abner and Jack Bowen; Northeast: Buffalo, M. A. Brown; Boston, William Erbb and A. M. Kane; New Haven, Ed W. Ruff; Albany, C. G. Eastman; East: Charles Zagrans and R. J. Folliard, Philadelphia; H. H. Greenblatt, Pittsburgh; J. B. Brecheen, Washington; East Central: Harris Dudelson, Cincinnati; Maury Orr, Cleveland; M. Dudelson and Jack Goldhar, Detroit; Southeast: Fred R. Dodson and Paul Wilson, Atlanta; John E. Holston, Charlotte; E. V. Landaiche, New Orleans; Southwest: J. B. Underwood, Dallas; J. J. Rogers, Memphis; C. A. Gibbs, Oklahoma City.

From the Midwest

Also, Midwest: W. E. Banford and Sam Shirley, Chicago; W. H. Workman, Minneapolis; H. J. Shumow, Milwaukee.

Indiana-Kentucky: William Marriott, Indianapolis.

Prairie District: Harry Hynes, St. Louis; Jack Langan and J. E. Garrison, Kansas City; Lou Levy, Des Moines; H. B. Johnson, Omaha.

Rocky Mountain: Tom Bailey and Len Gruenberg, Denver; C. Davison, Salt Lake City.

West Coast: Vete Stewart, Seattle; Al Oxtoby, Portland; Al Shmitken, San Francisco; Henry Herbel and Fred Greenberg, Los Angeles.

The following key city publicity representatives also have been named:

Atlanta, Harold Martin; Boston, Harry Browning; Buffalo, Charles B. Taylor; Charlotte, Roy L. Smart; Chicago, W. K. Hollander; Cincinnati, E. V. Dinerman; Cleveland, Ed J. Fisher; Dallas, Frank Starz; Denver, Harold Rice; Des Moines, Dale McFarland; Detroit, Alice Gorham; Indianapolis, William Elder; Kansas City, Jerry Zigmond; Los Angeles, Thornton Sargent; Memphis, Maurice Druker.

Also, Milwaukee: Don Demien; Minneapolis, Charles Winchell; New Haven, Lou Brown; New Orleans, Maurice Barr; New York, Harry Mandell; Oklahoma City, Robert Busch; Omaha, Ted Emerson; Philadelphia, James Ashcraft; Pittsburgh, James Totman; Portland, Ore., M. M. Mesher; St. Louis, J. L. Kaufman; Salt Lake City, Helen Garrity; San Francisco, Phil Phillips; Seattle, Vic Gauntlet; Washington, Frank La Falce.

Albany will be handled by Charles Smakwitz's office for that area.

Films at Red Cross Garden Rally Tuesday

Motion picture and other branches of amusements will join Tuesday night in a "Red Cross at War" rally in Madison Square Garden, with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and Mayor LaGuardia as principal speakers and 20,000 Red Cross workers as the audience. Gus Eyssell, managing director of Radio City Music Hall, and John Golden, Broadway producer, are co-chairmen.

Production facilities of the Music Hall are being made available. A script by Ben Hecht will dramatize the Red Cross, with roles to be played by Bert Lytell, Cornelia Otis Skinner, Helen Menken, Jane Cowl, Lionel Stander and others. Leon Leonidoff, producer for the Music Hall, will produce. Presiding over the rally will be John P. Stevens, Jr., general chairman for the Red Cross 1944 War Fund of Greater New York.

Holiday Grosses Hit New Highs on B'way

(*Continued from page* 1)

Marseille," hit $8,000 Tuesday to close the first week with a record $53,000.

The Strand, with "In Our Time," hit $8,500 Tuesday, and $7,500 on Monday. Roxy, with "The Sullivans," with almost $19,000 on Tuesday ended a $93,000 second week.

Capitol, with "Song of Russia," reached $14,000 for the holiday. Rivoli, running "Song of Bernadette," hit capacity marks of $8,999 on Tuesday and $8,390 on Monday. The Astor, with "Lifeboat," scored $4,075 and $3,500 for Tuesday and Monday, respectively. The Criterion, with "Standing Room Only," paced with a record $9,000 on Tuesday.

Lee to Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 23.—F. J. Lee succeeds Leland Allen, recently resigned, as manager of the local Monogram office. Lee was formerly manager of the Monogram office in Denver.

$16,744,936 Tax Is All-Time High

(*Continued from page* 1)

nearly $3,700,000 above the December total of $13,048,274 and $5,000,000 better than the $11,728,489 secured in January of 1943, it was announced. For the first seven months of 1943-44, collections from admissions aggregated $108,536,640, compared with $92,240,739 in the corresponding period a year ago.

Collections in the Third New York (Broadway) District accounted for nearly $100,000 of the increase over December and were nearly five times as much as in January, 1943, the total of $3,290,906 comparing with $2,393,044 in December and $678,382 last January.

The bulk of the increase was in box office collections, which rose from $2,164,043 in December to $3,033,552 last month, but admissions to roof gardens and cabarets also increased, from $209,347 to $232,151.

Clark Weighs Suit Trial, Coast Hears

(*Continued from page* 1)

conferred with independent exhibitors and also held a special session of all Federal court judges and Department of Justice attorneys in this area, after which he told MOTION PICTURE DAILY he was far from satisfied with progress being made in the decree proposals.

Clark's indicated action was learned from reliable sources today following the disclosure of charges contained in the Dodge suit filed by Albert J. Laws, formerly of the Justice Department and now counsel for independent exhibitors.

Seeks $465,000 Damages

Dodge sued Universal Film Exchanges, FWC Theatres, FWC Agency Corp., Principal Theatres, American Amusement Co., and Charles Corcoran for a total of $465,000 damages and a court order enjoining the defendants from further violations of the Sherman anti-trust laws as charged in the suit.

The complaint charged that Dodge had a two-year contract with Universal for first-run films but that upon expiration he was unable to renew it due to pressure brought to bear by the other defendants named in the suit, who are operating competing theatres.

"Fox West Coast fostered, sustained, and extended a monopoly which had been declared illegal and had been enjoined by the consent decree," the suit asserted, alleging FWC "thereby had controlled exhibition in every desirable town in Southern California."

It was also learned that additional local actions, basically the same as the Dodge complaint, probably would be filed within the next few days by exhibitors dissatisfied with the proposed new consent decree.

Clark Returns to Washington from West

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark returned to his desk today delayed because of grounded planes in Texas after having conferred on decree proposals with exhibitor leaders in the Southwest and on the Pacific Coast. There were no indications, however, that any further immediate steps would be taken toward perfecting the distributors' proposals, Clark having yet to receive the views of the MPTOA and to study the criticisms and suggestions of the various exhibitor organizations.

$3,500 for 'Snow White'

CINCINNATI, Feb. 23.—"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" grossed $3,500 in the opening day of the reissue at the RKO Grand yesterday despite a heavy all-day rain and the competition of the scrap paper collection in 70 suburban houses. This is an all-time local record, surpassing "Hitler's Children" and "Behind the Rising Sun" premieres at the RKO Albee earlier this season.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 29	BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKE Joan Davis John Hubbard C—74 mins.	(Sixth Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)	WHAT A MAN Johnnie Downs C—66 mins. (228) RAIDERS OF THE BORDER Johnny Mack Brown O—(352)	(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)		WOMEN IN WAR Elsie Janis D	(Block Three) AROUND THE WORLD Kay Kyser M—80 mins. (411)	LIFEBOAT Talullah Bankhead William Bendix D—96 mins. (419)	KNICKER-BOCKER HOLIDAY Nelson Eddy Charles Coburn D	PHANTOM LADY Franchot Tone Ella Raines Alan Curtis D—87 mins.	
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE COWBOY CANTEEN Charles Starrett O—72 mins.	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)		STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)			THE GHOST SHIP Richard Dix D—69 mins. (412)			SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D—63 mins.	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—67 mins. (409)		TARZAN'S DESERT MYSTERY Johnny Weismuller Nancy Kelly D—70 mins. (413)	(Feb. Releases. No definite date set) JANE EYRE Joan Fontaine Orson Welles D—96 mins. (420)	THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D—94 mins. (8066)	THIS IS THE ARMY (Regular release) George Murphy Joan Leslie M—115 mins. (224)
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	MADAME CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS D (Advance Price Engagements) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—168 mins. (4338)		CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins. (333)	ROOKIES IN BURMA Alan Carney Wally Brown C—62 mins. (414)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D—111 mins. (421)		WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D—63 mins. (8029)	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315) ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)				HIGHER AND HIGHER Frank Sinatra Michele Morgan Jack Haley M—90 mins. (415)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M—(8011)	
Mar. 4		RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—(418)			FRONTIER OUTLAWS Buster Crabbe O—(462)	BENEATH WESTERN SKIES Bob Livingston "Smiley" Burnette O—56 mins. (354)	(Block Four) TENDER COMRADE Ginger Rogers Robert Ryan D—102 mins. (416)	(March Release. No definite date set) PURPLE HEART Dana Andrews Tala Birell D			FRISCO KID (Re-issue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11	HEY ROOKIE! Ann Miller Joe Besser Larry Parks C	A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	GOING MY WAY Bing Crosby Rise Stevens M—130 mins. (4319)	LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE Lionel Atwill Joan Parker D—(414)		PASSPORT TO DESTINY Elsa Lanchester Gordon Oliver D—64 mins. (417)	4 JILLS IN A JEEP Carole Landis Martha Raye Dick Haymes C	VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	HAT CHECK HONEY Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett C—(8031)	PASSAGE TO MARSEILLES Humphrey Bogart Claude Rains D—110 mins.
Mar. 18	TWO-MAN SUBMARINE Tom Neal Ann Savage J. Carroll Naish D	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—115 mins. (419)		THE HITLER GANG Robert Watson Alexander Pope D—(4320)		MOJAVE FIREBRAND Wild Bill Elliott G. "Gabby" Hayes 55 mins.—(377)	THE CURSE OF THE CAT PEOPLE Simone Simon Kent Smith D—70 mins. (418)			LADIES COURAGEOUS Loretta Young Geraldine Fitzgerald Phillip Terry D	
Mar. 25	SUNDOWN VALLEY Charles Starrett Jeanne Bates Walter "Dub" Taylor O—55 mins.	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—100 mins. (420)		THE HOUR BEFORE DAWN Franchot Tone Veronica Lake D—75 mins. (4317)	THUNDERING GUN SLINGERS Buster Crabbe THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (English) D—(413)	MY BEST GAL Jane Withers Jimmy Lydon Frank Craven C-67 mins.	ESCAPE TO DANGER Eric Portman Ann Dvorak D—84 mins. (419)		SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Bonita Granville C	HI GOOD-LOOKIN' Harriet Hilliard Eddie Quillan Ozzie Nelson's Orchestra Jack Teagarden's Orchestra M—(8044)	
April 1	THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Gloria Stuart D	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)	HOT RHYTHM M—79 mins. Dona Drake Robert Lowery (314)	THE NAVY WAY Robert Lowery Jean Parker D—75 mins. (4316)		ROSIE, THE RIVETER Jane Frazee Frank Albertson Vera Vague C—75 mins.	ACTION IN ARABIA George Sanders Virginia Bruce D—75 mins. (420)		UP IN MABEL'S ROOM Gail Patrick John Hubbard C	FOLLOW THE BOYS George Raft Zorina (Guest stars) Orson Welles Charles Boyer Dinah Shore M	
April 8	COVER GIRL (Technicolor) Rita Hayworth Gene Kelly Phil Silvers Jinx Falkenburg M	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)		(Special) LADY IN THE DARK (Technicolor) Ginger Rogers Ray Milland M—100 mins. (4336)	GUNS OF THE LAW James Newill Tex O'Brien O		UP IN ARMS (special release) Danny Kaye Dinah Shore C—106 mins. (Technicolor)			WEIRD WOMAN Lon Chaney Anne Gwynne Evelyn Ankers D	SHINE ON, HARVEST MOON Ann Sheridan Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 39 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1944 TEN CENTS

Warners Have $12,938,563 Cash in Hand

Net Profit for WB's Last Quarter Is $1,981,730

Warner Brothers had $12,938,563 cash in hand at the end of its last fiscal quarter, Nov. 27, 1943, the company reported here yesterday. This compares to $8,948,791 at the end of the previous quarter. The company also reported a net profit for the quarter of $1,981,730, after Federal income tax and other deductions, against $1,723,383 for the corresponding period in 1942. This is equivalent to 53 cents per share on the 3,701,090 shares of outstanding common, compared to 43 cents per share for the like period in 1942, after provision for dividends on preferred stock then outstanding.

The company's gross income for the last quarter, after eliminating intercompany transactions, was $34,413,961, compared to a gross of $30,111,163 for the corresponding period in

(*Continued on page 3*)

E. M. Loew Offers Comment on Suits

E. M. Loew, New England independent circuit operator, attributed the suits by the eight major distributors pending against him in Federal Court in Boston to "an attempt to blacken the reputation of independent exhibitors," during an interview with MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday.

Loew contends some of the claims are trivial and cited that of one distributor which he said amounted to only $68 against 48 theatres over four years. In reply to questioning, how-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Colorado Corp. Sues Republic, Crenshaw

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24.—Albert J. Laws, attorney for the Colorado Corp., operator of the local Bard's Adams and Riviera theatres, today filed suit in Federal Court here against Republic Pictures, the Crenshaw Amusement Corp., and others.

The action charges violation of the Sherman anti-trust act through Republic's refusal to renew its contract with the Riviera for first-run films except at "unreasonable rentals."

Senate Vote Seen Clinching April 1 Date for New Tax

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—By a vote of 299 to 95 the House today passed the new tax bill over President Roosevelt's veto and the Senate is expected to follow suit tomorrow, paving the way for application of the new admission tax rate on April 1. The margin of more than 100 votes over the two-thirds necessary to override a veto demonstrated the firm belief of House members that the $2,300,000,000 measure represented the maximum which could be raised by new taxes at this time and a determination to keep the writing of tax bills in the hands of Congress.

There was little doubt tonight that the Senate also would override the President, in view of the unanimous re-election by the Democratic members today of Senator Alben Barkley as majority leader following his resignation after a sharp rebuke to the President for his strictures upon Congress.

An important outcome of the fight between the President and Congress may be a Treasury shake-up putting the drafting of tax policies into the hands of men more acceptable to the Congressional tax committees than those heretofore handling delicate tax questions.

Industry Launches Red Cross Campaign

"Exhibitors always have come through when called upon for any worthy cause, and they are sure to come through again in the 1944 Red Cross campaign," declared Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner theatres and national chairman of the industry's Red Cross drive, at the "kick-off" breakfast held yesterday in

(*Continued on page 3*)

SHOW EXHIBITORS THE DECREE: CLARK

U. S., Not Rank, Is British Films' 'Big Bad Wolf', Say Lords

LONDON, Feb. 24.—An indication of British governmental attitude toward J. Arthur Rank's expansion moves in the home and international film and theatre fields which perhaps casts light on the potentialities of occasional discussions in Parliament concerning "monopolistic controls" of the industry, was furnished during an interchange in the House of Lords yesterday.

The most significant remark, perhaps, was that made by Lord Selborne, Minister of Economic Warfare, who declared that the country owes a debt of gratitude to Rank for his present activities. The Board of Trade would welcome five Arthur Ranks, he remarked.

The debaters offered the opinion

(*Continued on page 8*)

British Film Plants Hit in Air Raids

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The long standing problem of limited studio space here has been further complicated in the past few days by the Nazis' renewed aerial attacks on this vicinity.

Studio stages were destroyed in the recent blitz and also a certain newsreel print laboratory. However, other newsreels are cooperating with the stricken plant by making available to it their own laboratory print facilities.

Negotiations Not Over Yet; Says Divorcement Is Not the Answer

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Failure fully to acquaint every exhibitor in the United States with the proposals made by the distributors for revision of the consent decree has been due to no desire on the part of the Government to keep theatre owners in the dark but, rather, to the physical difficulty of providing copies for every individual, it was declared today by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark, in commenting on several stories published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY this week showing that few exhibitors are familiar with the proposals.

"It has been imposible to furnish every exhibitor with a copy of the proposals," Clark said, "but copies were given to the officers of the various exhibitor asociations in the hope they would acquaint their membership with the details, and the major provisions have been outlined as fully as possible for the benefit of all."

It was the hope of the Department,

(*Continued on page 3*)

MonogramExtended $1,000,000 Credit

Monogram Pictures' loan agreements with three banks have been extended for another year and increased to a new high of $1,000,000, W. Ray Johnston, company president and George Burrows, vice-president and treasurer, disclosed here yesterday. The credit will be managed by the Seecurity-First National Bank, Los Angeles, and will be participated in

(*Continued on page 3*)

Para., 20th, GPE Declare Dividends

Paramount, 20th Century-Fox and General Precision Equipment have declared quarterly dividends.

On April 1 Paramount will pay 40 cents per share on common stock to stockholders of record March 10, 1944.

Owners of 20th-Fox's prior preferred will receive $1.12½ per share, payable March 15 to holders of record

(*Continued on page 3*)

Distributors' Proposals For An Amended Decree

(MOTION PICTURE DAILY *was authorized yesterday by a Department of Justice official to "paraphrase" the five consenting companies' proposals for an amended industry decree. A copy of the Jan. 20 draft which has been in the possession of the paper for the past several weeks was used for this purpose.*

(The "paraphrased" version herewith is the first trade press publication of the Jan. 20 draft. Previous stories appearing in the trade press were based on interpretations of the distributors' proposals by intermediate parties.

(MOTION PICTURE DAILY *believes it has accomplished its objective of bringing the decree proposals directly before the rank-and-file exhibitor and will,*

(*Continued on page 8*)

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M's general sales manager, will leave for Hollywood today, accompanied by EDWIN W. AARON, circuit sales head. Returning, RODGERS will stop off at Chicago for a company meeting March 11-15.

•

RUDOLPH BERGER, M-G-M district manager out of Washington, will return to his headquarters today after two weeks in New York. HERMAN RIPPS, RALPH MAW and BRYAN STONER, Albany. Buffalo and Pittsburgh managers, respectively, returned to their branches yesterday.

•

LOUIS SCHINE, secretary-treasurer, and GEORGE V. LYNCH, chief film buyer for the Schine Circuit, are in town on film deals. SCHINE will leave for Miami shortly, while Lynch will return to Gloversville.

•

CHARLES J. FREEMAN of Dallas, head of Texas Interstate Circuit's roadshow booking department, is due in New York today for a two weeks' stay at the Astor Hotel.

•

TOOTS SCHOR allowed a pearl to escape in an oyster during dinner hour the other night and HENRY (HANK) LINET, Universal Eastern advertising manager, found it.

•

BUDD ROGERS, member of the Universal board and vice-president and general manager of Alliance Films, is observing his 20th anniversary in the industry.

•

SAMUEL DATLOWE, EDWARD HYLAND, TOM LANDI and MORT CORWIN of Emerson Yorke Studio, here, have returned from New England location.

•

EDWARD M. SAUNDERS, assistant to WILLIAM F. RODGERS at M-G-M, will return today from a vacation on the Coast.

•

LT. (j.g.) TRYEE DILLARD, JR., formerly of M-G-M's home office legal department, is in New York on Navy shore leave.

•

BEN WERTHEIM of 20th-Fox's press book department and MRS. WERTHEIM are the parents of a daughter born at Medical Center, Jersey City.

•

SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN, president of Commonwealth, returned yesterday from a six weeks' Coast trip.

•

TOM CONNORS, 20th-Fox vice-president in charge of sales, is in Florida for two or three weeks.

•

JOHN BALABAN, head of Balaban & Katz Theatres, Chicago, is a New York visitor.

•

RUTGERS NEILSON, RKO publicity manager, is hobbling around on a sprained ankle.

•

HAL B. WALLIS, Warner producer will leave this weekend for the Coast

Conn. MPTO Asks U. S. Suit Trial

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 24.—The MPTO of Connecticut disapproves of the entry of any new industry consent decree and recommends that the Government proceed with an anti-trust suit against the major companies, in a report forwarded to the national MPTOA, with which it is affiliated, this week, Herman Levy, executive secretary of the Connecticut organization and general counsel of MPTOA, stated today.

The Connecticut MPTO's report, prepared after study of the distributors' new decree proposals at a membership meeting here recently, suggests, however, that if the Government decides to enter into a new consent decree that it first insist upon five major changes in the distributors' proposals. They are: elimination of the "lockout" and "showcase" provisions from the proposals governing expansion of affiliated circuits; a three-year, in place of a 10-year, decree with the right to reopen at any time during its life accorded to both sides; clarification of phraseology to make cancellation rights completely unrestricted; the elimination of trade showings, and the adoption of a simplified form of exhibition contract.

Levy's statement was made by way of correcting a story published by MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Feb. 23, which said that only minor revisions of the distributors' decree draft were being asked by the Connecticut organization.

Boasberg, Michalson On Tour for Drive

Charles Boasberg, New York district manager, and captain of the "Ned Depinet Drive" will start today on his second tour of RKO offices in the United States and Canada. He is scheduled to return to New York on April 7 for a final meeting on April 11.

At present in Cleveland where he is vacationing, Boasberg will go to Chicago tomorrow where he will meet Harry J. Michalson, short subjects sales manager, who will accompany him on the tour, the first stop of which will be Los Angeles for a meeting March 6. While in Los Angeles, Michalson will confer at the Disney studio when subjects will be picked and release dates set for the seventh series of Disney cartoons.

White, Larkin Are On Loan to WAC

Gordon White and Mark Larkin of the East Coast Industry Service Bureau, have been loaned to the War Activities Committee to assist Charles Smakwitz, publicity director of the theatres' Red Cross Week drive, and Ed Schreiber, WAC publicity director, Oscar Doob, WAC public relations chairman, announced here yesterday.

Larkin will aid in giving publicity to the industry's gift of 16mm. prints of current films to men in combat areas.

$1,225,000 RKO Bond Sales in One Week

Before leaving for the Midwest Wednesday, Edward L. Alperson, general manager of RKO Theatres, turned over to W. Randolph Burgess, chairman of the War Finance Committee of New York State, a check for $1,225,000, representing a single week's sale of war bonds in RKO Theatres during the week ending Feb. 15.

RKO's total theatre sales during the entire drive reached $3,750,000.

SPG Seeks New Pact; SOPEG, Mediation

The CIO Screen Publicists Guild here is making a simultaneous attempt to renegotiate its entire contract with the major film companies along with an attempt to compose by direct negotiations differences submitted recently to arbitration.

On another New York film labor front, the Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, Local 109, also CIO, yesterday notified Paramount that it desires to submit its job classification dispute, involving some 400 home office white collarites, to arbitration in accordance with the terms of its contract.

Two-year agreements between SPG and the companies will expire in most cases in May. SPG and company representatives met on Wednesday, and report that progress was made at the conference. The conferees will meet again March 14.

SOPEG designated Richard Seller of the New York Newspaper Guild as its arbitrator and called upon Paramount to appoint an arbitrator within three days, according to provisions of its contract. Proceedings will be under supervision of the American Arbitration Association.

Robbins, Brenner, Dembow at NSS Meet

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—Improved service despite wartime conditions was the keynote claim during this week's meeting of National Screen Service at the Blackstone Hotel. Herman Robbins, president; William Brenner and George Dembow, vice-presidents, presided.

Division managers present included William Sussman, Southeast; William Bein, Midwest and Arthur Aronson, West Coast.

'Arms' for Guild

RKO's "Up in Arms" will be shown Monday midnight at the Normandie Theatre here for the benefit of the New York Newspaper Guild's canteen and servicemen's committee. Sponsors are Elsa Maxwell, Ed Sullivan, Louis Sobol and John McManus. Danny Kaye, recently returned from a USO tour, will appear, and Lucy Monroe will sing. The picture will open next Thursday at Radio City Music Hall.

Krim Files Clearance Complaint in Detroit

Sol Krim, operating the Krim Theatre, Highland Park, Mich., has filed a clearance complaint at the Detroit tribunal against the five decree companies, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

Complainant alleges that existing clearance of seven days held by the Palmer Park Theatre over the Krim is unreasonable and seeks a reduction.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
Joan Fontaine • Orson Welles
"JANE EYRE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
GALA STAGE SHOW
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
GEORGE SANDERS
VIRGINIA BRUCE
GENE LOCKHART
'ACTION IN ARABIA'

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Spencer Irene
TRACY . DUNNE
"A GUY NAMED JOE"
In Person
BENNY CARTER
and ORCH.

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

ANNE BAXTER
THOMAS MITCHELL
"THE SULLIVANS"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus a Big Stage Show
ROXY
7th Ave. and 50th St.

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 10 a. m.
Rivoli
B'way & 49th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Industry Launches Red Cross Campaign

(*Continued from page* 1)

the Hotel Astor here as the initial activity in the motion picture theatres' Red Cross campaign.

Approximately 1,000 attended the breakfast, with Sam Rinzler, chairman of the New York committee, as master of ceremonies, and other speakers including Fred Schwartz, who said the 1944 goal had been set at triple last year's figure; H. E. Van Surdam of the Red Cross, and Max A. Cohen, co-chairman of the New York exhibitors' committee.

Dave Weinstock was chairman of arrangements for the breakfast; on other committees were Edward Alperson, Mort Blumenstock, Sol Schwartz, Charles MacDonald, Leo Brecher and Myron Siegel.

On the dais were Bernhard, Ben Kalmenson, Harry M. Kalmine, Blumenstock, Francis S. Harmon, Gradwell L. Sears, Cohen, MacDonald, Weinstock, Rinzler, Charles C. Moskowitz, Harry Lowenstein, A. W. Smith, Jr., James R. Grainger, Schwartz, Sam Dembow, Don Jacocks, Herman Gluckman, Chaplain George D. Lessley, U. S. Army; Elliott Lee of the Red Cross; Don Stewart, of the American hospitals motion picture service of the Red Cross, and Van Surdam.

Bernhard, Goldberg To Speak in New England

BOSTON, Feb. 24.—Joseph Bernhard and Harry Goldberg, Warner executives and prominent in the industry's Red Cross drive, will address New England exhibitors and representatives of the press Tuesday night at the Hotel Copley Plaza on the drive. Sam Pinanski, head of the New England campaign, will also speak.

No 16mm 'Freezing', Washington Says

The War Production Board today revised photographic film order L-233 to require manufacturers of film to file reports of production and sales only quarterly, instead of monthly as at present.

This, officials of the motion picture section explained, was the only change made in the order, and there is no "freezing" of 16 mm film, as had been reported in the industry today.

A spokesman for the section said that the 16 mm situation is tight at the moment due to heavily increased military demand but this situation is expected to be taken care of in the near future so that all essential civilian needs can be met.

In other quarters it was said that the Army has not handled its 16 mm operations as efficiently as might be desired, but that some of the slack is now being taken up, which will permit the department to cut back its requirements.

Wins Admittance Suit

ALBANY, Feb. 24.—Upholding the constitutionality of the Civil Rights Law, which forbids barring from public performances any person over 21 years old who has paid admission, the Court of Appeals today awarded $500 to Robert W. Christie in his suit against the 46th Street Theatre Corp. and the Select Operating Corp.

Show the Consent Decree To Exhibitors, Says Clark

(*Continued from page* 1)

he went on, that through the work of exhibitor organization leaders the rank-and-file of exhibitors would have an adequate picture of what was under consideration. At the same time, he pointed out, the distributors' proposals were merely their offered concessions which, from the Department's view, simply formed a basis for such further discussions as might be found necessary and the framework on which to hang such provisions as the Department felt necessary in an acceptable decree.

Back from a trip to the West Coast, necessitated by other business, but during which he found time for discussion of the decree proposals with representatives of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Exhibitors and one or two individuals, Clark denied Hollywood reports that he was preparing to launch a divorce action against the integrated companies in the immediate future.

The question of that proceeding is still open, he said, but it has not been decided to file a suit at this time. Further, he pointed out, a theatre divorce suit would not deal with all the difficulties of independent exhibitors nor solve the problems of cancellation, arbitration, move-overs, etc., covered by the decree.

Two to Three Years Needed

Clark estimated that two to three years would be required to dispose of a divorcement action, since the companies undoubtedly would carry it to the Supreme Court. If the Government won, the theatre-owning producers would have to quit either exhibition or production and distribution, but such a decision would not deal with many of the trade practices covered by the decree which it is now sought to amend.

The Assistant Attorney General refused to discuss the merits of a divorce action, but it is understood that there are provisions in the distributors' proposals, in recommendations made by various exhibitor interests, which would deal in part with the problem of distributor ownership of theatre outlets, the acceptance of which might make the bringing of an action unnecessary at this time.

If court action is needed to eliminate abuses in trade practices, Clark pointed out, the logical way to deal with the situation would be through revival of the original suit which was halted when the present decree was approved some three years ago.

No great formality would be required for revival of that proceeding beyond an application by the Department for reopening the case and the setting of a date for continuing the suspended trial.

Throughout his discussion of the situation, Clark emphasized that nothing has transpired which closed the door to further decree negotiations with distributors. There have been frequent reports that the Department was about to take drastic action, the situation in that respect paralleling that of some three-and-a-half years ago, when rumors that negotiations for the original decree had been dropped went periodically through the industry only to be denied by another meeting between Thurman Arnold, then Assistant Attorney General, and the distributors.

No Correlation Yet Made

So far, it has not proved possible to correlate all the criticisms and suggestions made by various exhibitor organizations and such individuals as have made their views known, Clark explained, and one or two briefs are yet to be received.

When all exhibitor opinion is in, it will be carefully studied, and then, he said, the whole situation will be lined up. Some of the proposals made by the distributors will probably be satisfactory, others not, and the Department will have its own views to present with respect both to the unsatisfactory provisions and as to provisions which it believes should be incorporated.

These matters then will be discussed with the distributors, Clark explained, and if a satisfactory agreement can be reached a revised consent decree can be submitted to Attorney General Francis Biddle for his consideration. If the matter cannot be worked out, Clark concluded, "we will take such action as the Attorney General may direct."

Para., 20th, GPE Declare Dividends

(*Continued from page* 1)

March 6. Convertible preferred holders will get 37½ cents per share, payable March 31 to stockholders of record March 15. The common stock dividend will be 25 cents per share, payable on the same date schedule as the convertible.

Directors of General Precision Equipment have declared a cash dividend of 25 cents per share, payable March 15 to stockholders of record March 6.

Buffalo Revives Curfew

BUFFALO, Feb. 24.—Mayor Kelly of this city has revived a 50-year-old curfew law here, requiring boys under 12 and girls under 14 to be off the streets by 8 p.m.

Warner Bros. Have $12,938,563 in Hand

(*Continued from page* 1)

the previous year. A total of $26,796,646 is listed for cost of sales and expenses for the 1943 quarter. Provision for Federal income taxes reached $3,945,000. Earned surplus at the end of the quarter was $23,900,070.

Current and working assets were listed at $51,628,844, against current liabilities of $27,961,915. Goodwill is listed as $8,405,081. Total assets were $188,434,867.

Graham to Buffalo

BUFFALO, Feb. 24.—William Graham, former booker at 20th-Fox's Cincinnati exchange, has succeeded George Sussman as office manager at the local office.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 24

MICHAEL KRAIKE, one-time Columbia story editor, has been signed as a producer by that company after obtaining release from his associate-producer contract with Paramount.

•

Warners' will produce "The Miracle" in Technicolor. The picture will be made by Wolfgang Reinhardt, son of the late Max, from a screenplay by Richard Aldington.

•

The benefit premiere of 20th-Fox's "The Sullivans" at the Chinese Theatre last night netted $9,285 for the Naval Aid Auxiliary.

•

Hunt Stromberg has signed Andre de Toth to a directing contract. His first assignment will be "Dishonored Lady," for United Artists.

•

Republic has signed Herman Millakowsky as producer. His first will be announced shortly.

•

Lester Sharpe, formerly with Paramount, has been signed as an associate producer by Republic.

MonogramExtended $1,000,000 Credit

(*Continued from page* 1)

by the California Bank, Los Angeles, and Guaranty Trust, New York.

Under terms of the agreements, the banks will provide Monogram with a revolving line of credit limited to $1,000,000. "This represents a substantial increase in the amount of bank credit made available to the corporation as compared with the amount provided for under terms of the previous loan agreement, entered into six months ago," said Monogram. The increase is in line with the company's plans for expansion. At the recent regional sales meeting in New York, Monogram executives made known plans to increase the number of "A" pictures from three to eight for the coming year.

Johnston, Broidy Honored By Weiss & Geller Agency

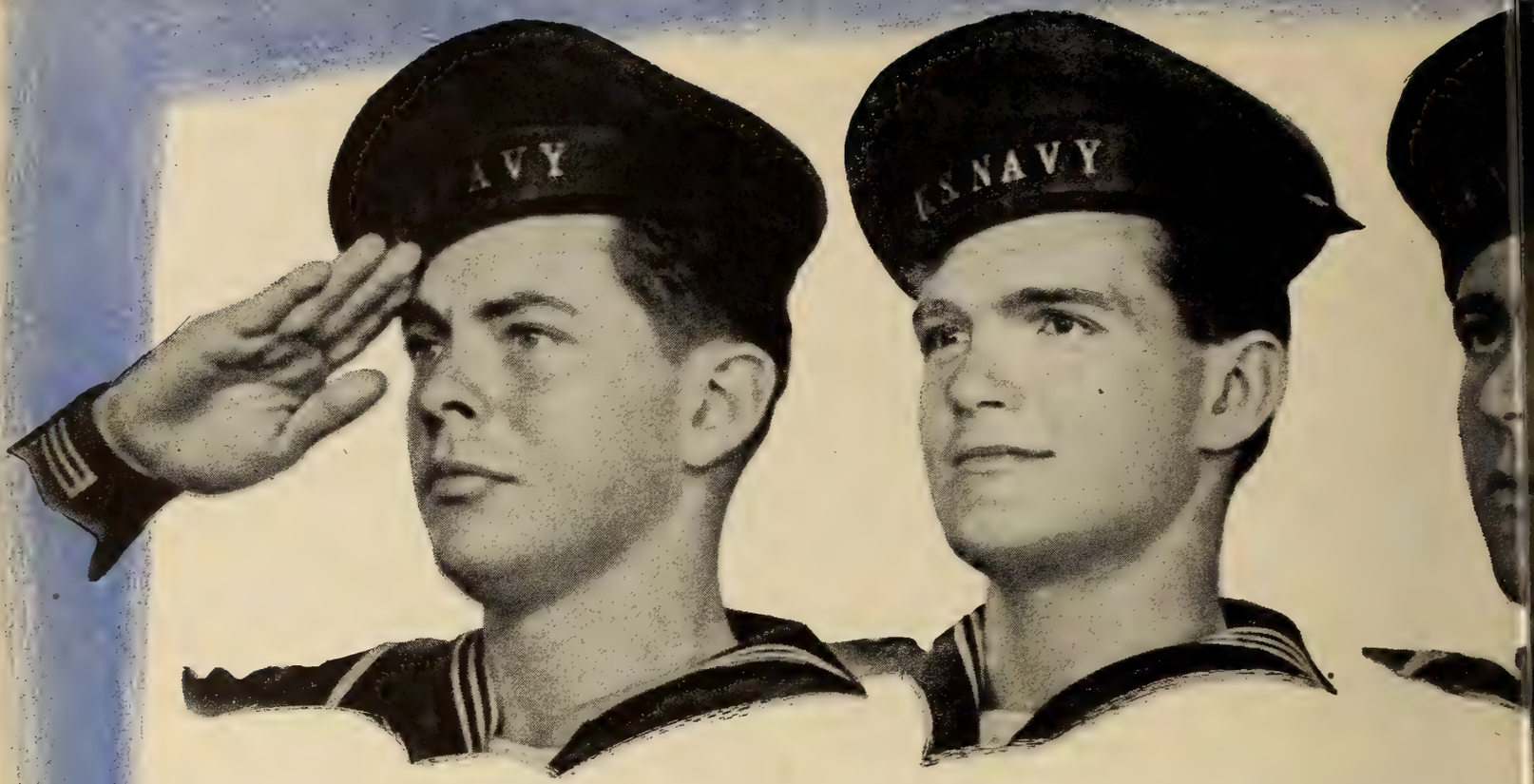
W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, and Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales head, were honored at a luncheon here yesterday in the Chatham Hotel given by Joseph H. Curtis, vice-president in charge of motion picture advertising of Weiss & Geller Advertising Agency.

Among those present from Weiss & Geller in addition to Curtis were: Max Geller, Peter Artzt, Arthur Gordon, Lester Mallettes, and Ann Ranftel. From Monogram, besides Johnston and Broidy, were: Harry H. Thomas, Lloyd Lind, and Madeleine White.

Plans More Errol And Kennedy Shorts

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24.—RKO Radio will continue its series of Leon Errol and Edgar Kennedy short subjects next season.

Six two-reel films for each of the comedy stars are planned for 1944-45.



"PICTURE OF THE MONTH!" —*Redbook Magazine*

"MOVIE OF THE MONTH!" —*Parents Magazine*

"ONE OF

SALUTES FOR

"The SULL

FIVE TIMES THE THRILL
...THE ENTERTAINMEN

REMEMBER! MARCH 15th
DEADLINE FOR HONORED
HUNDRED BOND REPORTS
TO STATE CHAIRMAN!



EST EVER!" —*Liberty Magazine*

"ORCHIDS!" —*Walter Winchell*

"THRILLING AS AMERICA!" —*Lee Mortimer, N.Y. Daily Mirror*

-IANS"!

THE LAUGHTER... THE EMOTION.... 'EATNESS OF ANY OTHER PICTURE!

20th Century-Fox presents "THE SULLIVANS" with ANNE BAXTER, THOMAS MITCHELL and Selena Royle, Edward Ryan, Trudy Marshall, John Campbell, James Cardwell, John Alvin, George Offerman, Jr., Roy Roberts, Ward Bond • Directed by LLOYD BACON • Produced by SAM JAFFE • Associate Producer Robert T. Kane • Screen Play by Mary C. McCall, Jr. Story by Edward Doherty and Jules Schermer.

20th CENTURY-FOX

Woman of Mystery... Land of Intrigue





SEE —2,000 camels in spectacular dash across the desert!



SEE —2,500 Arabian steeds racing at top speed across the swirling sands!



SEE —3,000 native warriors, representing every tribe in Syria!



SEE —Arabian Beauties —Oriental Dances— Palace of the Sheik— A World of Thrills and Wonders!



RKO RADIO PICTURES

PATRIOTIC SHOWMEN: RED CROSS DRIVE MARCH 23 THROUGH MARCH 29

Exciting romance in old Damascus, mystic city of dangerous women and desperate men, where kisses are bartered for secrets, and secrets are traded for lives!

ACTION IN ARABIA

with **GEORGE SANDERS**

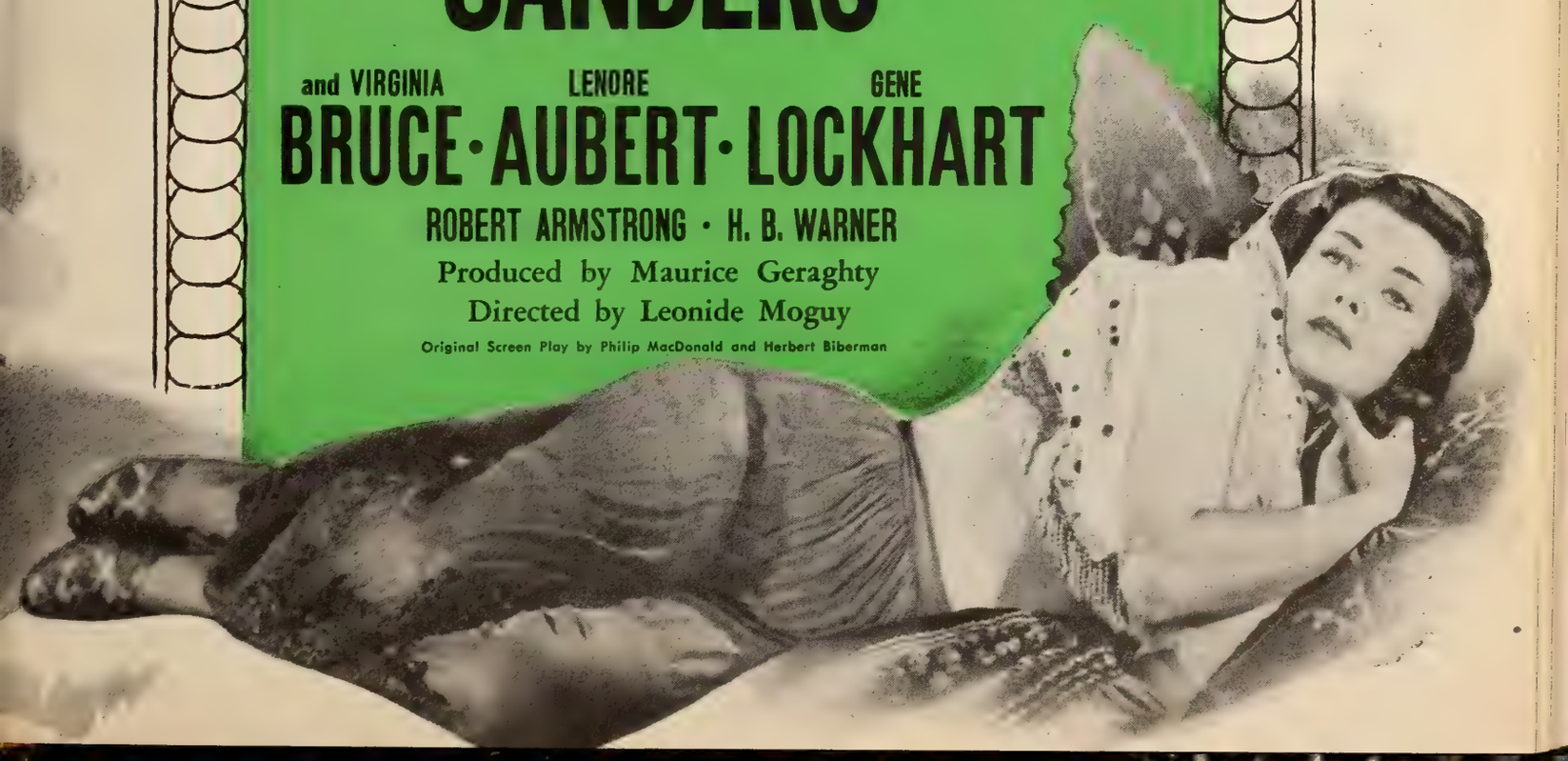
and **VIRGINIA BRUCE** · **LENORE AUBERT** · **GENE LOCKHART**

ROBERT ARMSTRONG · **H. B. WARNER**

Produced by Maurice Geraghty

Directed by Leonide Moguy

Original Screen Play by Philip MacDonald and Herbert Biberman



U.S., Not Rank, Is British Films' 'Big Bad Wolf', Say Lords

(Continued from page 1)

that "monopolistic control" here is much more likely to come from American companies in England rather than from Rank. The subject of the American companies' "Hays organization" here, it was brought out, is being given careful consideration. It was stated further that the necessity of striking a medium between chaos and monopoly, thereby preserving the small man's place in the industry, is recognized. The belief was expressed that the British industry has a great future and the government will do all in its power to help it.

Generally Grateful to U. S.

A more or less general view expressed was that Britain should be grateful to the American industry for producing thousands of films to the approximately 30 produced for it by the rest of the world. It was stated that it also is fortunate for Britain that its film industry is dominated by an Allied, rather than an enemy country.

Caustic and unexpected reference was made during the debate to a certain producer who finds urgent business to transact in the United States when bombs begin falling on London, and who returns here with grandiose schemes when the blitz quiets.

Cinema Stocks Slump; See Rank Manipulation

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Cinema securities prices on the local stock market, which have fallen gradually during the last three days, today took a spectacular dive, with Odeon, Gaumont British and Associated British Picture Corp. all affected.

General market information sources are blaming the slump on the renewed blitz, which has cut theatre attendance, but those on the "inside" see the movement as part of a plan of J. Arthur Rank's associates to peg stock prices at a rational level.

E. M. Loew Offers Comment on Suits

(Continued from page 1)

ever, he conceded that other claims amounted to several thousand dollars per house.

Loew stressed two points that are prominent in his defense: the issue of the legality of contracts under which he says he has been forced to book pictures, and, his contention that the distributors "operated under a smoke screen" in sending an auditor for a blanket examination of his books rather than examining them individually and giving him a chance to settle any possible claims.

Adding that he had been given no chance to examine the distributors' books for evidence of overpayment, which he felt existed, Loew said, "I urge independent exhibitors in this country to wake up and organize if they want to stay in business." He held that through such methods as changing "C" pictures to "A" pictures, the majors had collected more than was their due.

Distributors' Proposals for Amended Decree as Submitted to Justice Dep't

(Continued from page 1)

therefore, discontinue the publication of exhibitor statements attesting to their lack of information on the decree proposals as a result of the secrecy imposed upon the trade press by the Department of Justice at the outset.)

Preamble. The same 13 consenting companies, representing five parent companies, Loew's, Paramount, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warners, and their distributing and exhibiting subsidiaries which were named as defendants in the original New York anti-trust suit, reassert their innocence and consent to the entry of the amended and supplemental decree on condition that it shall not be construed that any defendant violated or is violating the law, or that any of the acts enjoined would constitute a violation of any law.

Section 1. The parties recognize the Court's jurisdiction for the enforcement of the amended decree and for that purpose only.

Section 2. Each consenting defendant, its successors, officers, directors, agents and employes, and subsidiary corporations and agents, are enjoined from doing acts prohibited under decree and are directed to do acts required by decree.

Section 3. No feature film to be licensed for commercial exhibition until tradeshown in each exchange district. Tradeshowings must be preceded by published notice in a trade publication of general circulation among exhibitors.

Section 4. Consenting distributors can license only one film at a time to any exhibitor if the distributor does not offer the licensing exhibitor the following cancellation rights in connection with the licensing of a block of pictures: (a) "not less than 20 percent cancellation of the total number of features in the block if the average of the license fees paid by the exhibitor to the distributor for the same run in the same theatre during the preceding season did not exceed $100 per feature; (b) "not less than" 10 per cent if the average license was more than $100 and less than $200, and (c) "not less than" five per cent if the average exceeded $200.

Notice of Cancellation

Notice of cancellation must be given to distributor by first run exhibitors not later than 14 days after the mailing by distributor of notice of availability, and, for other than first runs, not later than 14 days after the close of the first exhibition in the subsequent run's city or town, or not later than 14 days after distributor first mails notice of availability, whichever is later.

Disputes under the section are subject to arbitration. A picture once cancelled shall not be offered to the same exhibitor again except by itself.

No distributor shall condition the licensing of a feature on the licensing of shorts, newsreels, trailers, foreigns, serials, reissues or Westerns. Controversies under this sub-division subject to arbitration. Arbitrators may enter awards either cancelling the contract or contracts involved or affixing a penalty of not more than $250 against an offending distributor in a first award, and not more than $500 in a second award involving the same parties. Cash penalties payable to exhibitor complainant.

If no license has been entered into, but the exhibitor asserts a claim that a distributor attempted, while negotiating, to condition the licensing of features on the prohibited classes of films, the exhibitor must notify the distributors' home office within five days after the alleged misfault occurred. Penalties in such cases are not to exceed $250 and are payable into the arbitration fund.

Section 5. Features cannot be licensed in more than one exchange district, nor be conditioned upon their licensing in another exchange district. Subject to arbitration with a penalty for offenders of not more than $500, payable into the arbitration fund.

Section 6. Distributors must license some run if exhibitor can satisfy minimum reasonable standards of theatre operation and is reputable unless the result of the licensing would have the effect of reducing the distributors' total revenue in the exhibitor's competitive area. Section is subject to arbitration. Award can direct a distributor to offer a run.

Section 7. Exhibitor can cancel for moral, religious or racial reasons on giving written notice, stating reason, within five days of notice of availability. Section is subject to arbitration.

Section 8. Claims of unreasonable clearance are subject to arbitration. Specials are excepted. Awards may fix maximum clearance.

Section 9. Distributors prohibited from withholding prints. Controversies subject to arbitration.

Section 10. Refusals to license a specific run are subject to arbitration where a complaining independent exhibitor is in competition with a circuit theatre. Refusals must have involved five successively released features, which were licensed to a competitive circuit theatre; complainant must have had insufficient product on hand; complainant and his theatre must qualify in numerous particular respects covering admissions, reputability and prior relations with distributor. Failure of distributor to comply with an award in complainant's favor to be subject to compensatory damages to the exhibitor for resultant loss.

Section 11. Defendants prohibited from building or acquiring theatres except upon application "to a District court of the United States," either in New York or the area in which the theatre in question is located or to be located. Defendants may replace a former theatre of theirs, may lease one for a show window or for a special engagement, or may build or acquire one where distributor has been "locked out." Distributors must report theatre changes to Department of Justice monthly. Controversies under section are subject to injunctive relief in court.

Section 12. Defendants agree to dissolve pooling arrangements with other consenting defendants within one year of entry of decree, wherever possible.

Section 13. Decree provisions limited to operations within continental United States.

Section 14. Distributors retain right to roadshow any picture on own terms.

Section 15. Distributors not in violation of decree unless guilty of refusal to arbitrate or abide by awards.

Section 16. Defendants retain right to license own affiliated theatres on terms and conditions of their own choosing.

Section 17. Department of Justice given access to defendants' books and records and right to interview officers and employes to secure compliance with amended decree.

Section 18. Distributors retain right to select own customers.

Section 19. Cancellation right to become effective six months after entry of amended decree.

Section 20. Department of Justice not to bring an action for divorcement of production or distribution from exhibition for a period of 10 years after entry of amended decree.

Section 21. Retention of arbitration tribunals in each exchange center with panels of at least 10 arbitrators in each who shall have no connection with industry. American Arbitration Association to be continued as administrator; budget to be provided as now by consenting companies with provision for court order of a budget increase of $50,000 in any one year. Provision made for submission of controversies to arbitration other than those specified in this section.

Continue Appeal Board

Continuation of appeal board of three judges, appointed for three-year terms at salaries of $17,500 for two members and $20,000 annually for chairman, with offices in New York.

Section 22. Jurisdiction retained by Federal court for purpose of enabling "any of the parties to this amended and supplemental decree" (the Government is a party to the decree) "to apply to the court at any time" for enforcement, punishment of violations, for a modification to conform decree to any subsequent act of Congress, and for the purpose of enabling "any consenting defendant" to apply to the court after three years to vacate the decree or any provision of it on the grounds that it is unnecessary, inappropriate, burdensome or oppressive.

The court shall enter orders relieving defendants of compliance with provisions in conflict with state laws.

Ingram to Memphis

MEMPHIS, Feb. 24.—Louis Ingram of the M-G-M Atlanta office has been named acting branch manager at the local office, replacing J. Frank Willingham, transferred to St. Louis.

Will Hoblitzelle Dies

DALLAS, Feb. 24.—Karl Hoblitzelle, president of Interstate Circuit here, has returned from St. Louis, where he attended the funeral of his brother, Will Hoblitzelle.

BIS Appoints Burnside

William Burnside, former director of production for the National Film Board of Canada, has been named adviser to the films division of the British Information Service here.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 40 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1944 TEN CENTS

WAC Sets Up New Exchange Field Force

Full Support of District Managers Engaged

Following the recommendation of its retiring chairman, William F. Rodgers, the War Activities Committee distributors division, headed by Ned E. Depinet, has realigned that division and appointed new exchange area chairmen to function on all WAC projects for a year.

First request from Depinet to the new field force was the urging of all to back the forthcoming theatres' Red Cross Week, March 23-29.

The realignment which, Depinet stated, was conceived by his assistant, Leon J. Bamberger, is said to derive the maximum use of exchange personnel across the country by placing the

(*Continued on page* 8)

Kelly to Coast to Line Up Producers

Arthur W. Kelly, president of J. Arthur Rank's new Eagle-Lion Films here, will leave for Hollywood today to seek tie-ups with independent producers who are expected to furnish seven or eight of about 15 films to be released in this country annually by the new company. The remainder will be selected British-made product sponsored by Rank units, Kelly told MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Actual produc-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Key City Meetings To Hear Film Heads On Red Cross Drive

Marshalling of the industry in the field for the 1944 Red Cross Drive will get under way today at the first four of a series of key city meetings at which industry leaders will speak.

Arranged through local exhibitor and distributor chairmen for the campaign, the first meetings will be held in Washington, New Haven, Detroit and Denver. Speakers will include the following: Washington: Joseph Bernhard, the industry's national chairman for the drive, Sam Dembow and A. W. Smith, Jr.; New Haven: Ben Kalmenson, Harry M. Kalmine and Francis S. Harmon; Detroit: Edward L. Alperson and Ben Shlyen; Denver: Ned E. Depinet and Harry Brandt.

Three meetings will be held tomor-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Quigley 1944 Awards Judging Here Today

Joseph R. Vogel, Loew vice president in charge of out-of-town theatres, will be the principal speaker at the annual Quigley Awards luncheon sponsored by *Motion Picture Herald* through its Managers' Round Table at noon today at the Hotel Astor. Martin Quigley, editor-in-chief and president of Quigley Publishing Co., will preside, following selection of theatre showmanship winners by exhibition and distribution executives.

The competition, the 11th, will include a special award for the second time for outstanding "War Showmanship."

BIDDLE WOULD BAN POST-WAR CARTELS

Educational Films Project Is Aided By Major Companies

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Dr. George F. Zook, president of the American Council of Education, yesterday announced the appointment and first meeting of a Commission on Motion Pictures in Education. The commission will study the needs of schools and colleges for motion picture material and will plan for the production of new films for courses of study where new pictures are needed. Special attention will be given at the beginning to planning of series of films for educational activities connected with postwar reconstruction.

The work of the commission will be supported by a susbtantial grant from the eight major film companies

(*Continued on page* 8)

Stewart Named Chief Of Second Front Film

Col. Hugh Stewart of the British Army Film Unit and co-producer with Col. Frank Capra of "Tunisian Victory," soon to be released by M-G-M, has been appointed chief of the Second Front Film Units, British Information Services reports here.

Col. Stewart was with the British Eighth Army in command of 20 cameramen, during the Tunisian campaign. Before the war he edited and directed.

Legislation to Be Asked Would Affect Deals of Rank Here, Abroad

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Safeguards against the development of international cartels, including film cartels, after world peace is restored are being worked out by the Department of Justice, to be urged upon Congress in the development of a legislative policy for post-war conversion, it was learned here tonight.

Major features of the program, in the drafting of which Attorney General Francis Biddle is taking a personal interest, will be a requirement for full publication of all private agreements, including those in this

(*Continued on page* 8)

New 1c-on-5c Tax Effective April 1

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Overriding President Roosevelt's veto by even a greater margin than did the House, the Senate at the weekend took the final step to make the new tax bill law, and the present rate of one cent on each 10 cents or fraction paid for admission will be increased to one cent on each five cents or major fraction thereof April 1.

The five-to-one vote by which the

(*Continued on page* 8)

"Going My Way"

[*Paramount*]

Hollywood, February 27

CROONER Bing Crosby, "The Old Groaner" to his intimates and Number Four Man at the box-office in the current list of *Money-Making Stars* named by exhibitors in *Quigley Publications'* annual poll, ventured far from his field of endeavor this time and came up with a natural.

He plays a young priest, and he sings him, too, in a picture about that young priest and an old priest and the means and manner of their living and working in a world where working and living are one and the same thing. This is new material for the screen, fresh as the untried is always fresh, and, in the presentation given it by producer-director Leo McCarey, crisp new merchandise for all the customers of all the theatres.

Humanness, not religion, is the keynote of the picture. The straight-line screenplay by Frank Butler and Frank Cavett brings Father O'Malley, a young curate, to Father Fitzgibbon, pastor of St. Dominic's in New York City, under instructions to conceal from the aging prelate

(*Continued on page* 4)

General Film Bldg. Is Hit by Bombs

The Nazis' continuing air-blitz of London has badly blasted the entire building of General Film Distributors, one of the principal J. Arthur Rank firms, which distributes Universal and other product throughout Great Britain, a cable to Joseph Seidelman, "U's" foreign manager, disclosed at the weekend.

The building is located on Wardour Street, London's "film row." There was no indication of the extent of loss of films and records. There were no casualties.

Admission Scales Under New Tax Bill

Following is the scale of admission prices showing the tax exhibitors will charge under the new tax bill.

(1c on each 5c)

Adm. Price	Tax	Total Charge
10c	2c	12c
15c	3c	18c
20c	4c	24c
25c	5c	30c
30c	6c	36c
35c	7c	42c
40c	8c	48c
45c	9c	54c
50c	10c	60c

It is estimated that the tax will net about $297,000,000 per year.

Personal Mention

COL. K. B. LAWTON, chief of the Army Pictorial Service and head of the Signal Corps studio at Astoria, L. I., left New York at the weekend for a Hollywood inspection trip.

•

JOSEPHS MARKS, formerly RKO short subjects manager in London, has been appointed sales manager of Pathe Pictures in London, distributors of Monogram Pictures, the company reported here over the weekend.

•

HYMIE PALEFSKY of Loew's Oriental Theatre, Brooklyn, will return to America soon as an Air Corps S/Sgt. He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal.

•

SIGWART KUSIEL, Columbia's general manager in Brazil, is in New York to confer with vice-president JOSEPH A. MCCONVILLE and other home office executives.

•

DAVID A. LIPTON, former Columbia director of advertising-publicity, is now in the Army Signal Corps at Camp Crowder, Mo.

•

THOMAS GOLDBERG, theatre owner in Baltimore, has returned from Atlantic City where he recuperated from an illness.

•

H. A. ROSS, president of Ross Federal Service, left over the weekend for an extended trip to the Midwest and West Coast branches.

•

J. J. UNGER, United Artists Western division sales manager, is expected to return today from a business trip to Chicago.

•

HARRY FEINSTEIN, Warner Theatre film buyer and booker in the Pittsburgh zone, returned to that city from New York over the weekend.

•

NORMAN ELSON, Trans-Lux vice-president, will leave for Washington today.

•

JULES FIELDS of 20th-Fox exploitation department left over the weekend for Detroit.

•

OSCAR HANSON, president of Monogram Pictures of Canada, returned to Toronto over the weekend.

•

PERC WESTMORE, Warner studio makeup director, will leave for the Coast tomorrow.

•

MITCHELL RAWSON, who recently resigned as Selznick's press chief on the Coast, has returned to New York.

•

JOSEPH H. SEIDELMAN, Universal vice-president, has returned to New York from an Arizona vacation.

•

E. F. WALSH, Universal comptroller, has returned from a visit to the Coast.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE Associated Motion Picture Advertisers' airing of the status of theatre advertising at its meeting in New York last week was good within the limitations of that meeting. But it is our opinion that it did not go far enough.

Maurice Bergman, Eastern advertising and publicity manager for Universal, started the ball rolling in the right direction with his challenging statements concerning what is wrong with or what is lacking in present day theatre advertising. Some good rebuttals were entered from the exhibition side by Leonard Goldenson, David Weinstock, Arthur Mayer and Sam Rinzler.

One of Bergman's principal contentions was that theatre advertising should be refreshing, should break away from the conventions and adopt a long range view. With that we agree unreservedly.

Recent samples of advertising by leading Chicago Loop theatres, which occupied the most prominent display space on the amusement pages of the newspapers of that city, perhaps best illustrate why we believe the AMPA discussion did not go far enough. Here are some of the catchlines employed by the leading Chicago theatres in advertising major company product: "Spicy Screen Scandal Vies with Rousing Stage Rhythm!" "Were These Love Confessions Hers? Or Hers? It's Riotous, Scandalous, Blush-Packed Panic." Or: "She Thumbed a Ride With Romance and Became the Best-Kissed Dish in the U. S. A.!" "Fourth frolicking week for the kiss blitz of a ritz miss!" (The exclamation points in this type of advertising appear to be a Must!)

There was an era, we admit, when that type of theatre advertising might have been justified on the ground that it was the only sure-fire way in which pictures of the type concerned could best be merchandised. We believe that era has passed. It was conventional because it was in common usage. Today it is old-fashioned and is evidence of the barren imagination of theatre advertising. And for that reason, and for no other, it still is conventional. It is not refreshing. It is not far-seeing.

• •

Incidentally MOTION PICTURE DAILY recently reported that Chicago newspapers, while cutting advertising lineage in some departments, have not reduced amusement advertising space and, in some instances, are soliciting increases in amusement lineage. Exhibitors elsewhere would be well advised to ask a few questions of their hometown publications when they are told that desired space cannot be made available to them because of newsprint rationing. One of the pertinent questions which might be asked is how much advertising is being accepted by such publications from strictly wartime advertisers who have nothing whatever to sell to the public, advertising by companies whose principal income is from Government contracts and whose advertising is charged against cost of doing business and, thus, reflected to their advantage in their tax returns.

• •

Reports around Times Square, following the recent visit here of Y. Frank Freeman, are that Paramount is well satisfied with its present cushion of completed pictures; will begin digging into the backlog and that the studio's production pace will be slowed somewhat in the months to come. Completed pictures at the studio are said to number about 18.

• •

The grapevine from downtown was busy last week with the report that Charles D. Prutzman, Universal vice-president and general counsel, may be named by the New York Republican party as a candidate for United States Senator in the next election. Pursuing the rumor trail, we found Prutzman not unaware of the report but unaware of either its origin or its substance.

• •

MOTION PICTURE DAILY was gratified to receive the numerous letters and telephone calls from exhibitors expressing their appreciation of this paper's efforts to have made available to them a first-hand presentation of the distributors' proposals for an amended consent decree. We hope the results of that effort have been useful and we are gratified over expressions received from our exhibitor readers. The situation needed attention. As Leon Rosenblatt of the I. T. O. A. of New York expressed it: "Only one out of a thousand exhibitors knows about the proposals."

It is our sincere hope that that situation has been corrected in some part through our efforts.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 27

LOUIS B. MAYER, vice-president in charge of M-G-M's production, will leave here Tuesday for Washington and will then go to New York, arriving there on March 4. He will probably remain for forthcoming labor negotiations. Howard Strickling, M-G-M studio publicity chief, will accompany him.

•

RKO has signed Frank Strayer, formerly of Columbia, to a producer-director contract. He will produce "The Girl Rush." A. Edward Sutherland has been signed as a director by the studio. His first will be "Having Wonderful Crime," starring Pat O'Brien.

•

Eleanor Powell's illness has caused production on Andrew Stone's "Sensations of 1944" to halt. Shooting of the film, to be released through United Artists, will be resumed upon Miss Powell's return.

•

The 10-house war bond premieres in Los Angeles of "Madame Curie" netted $1,069,981. M-G-M plans additional runs at 10 other houses. "Curie" is the studio's Academy award nominee.

•

Carroll Sax, Warner studio business manager, will leave here Friday for labor negotiations in New York. Wilson R. Stone, RKO labor relations representative, will leave on the same day.

•

Universal has announced "Song of the Hills," a musical with William J. Cowan producing, and "Singing Sheriff," with Bernard Burton producing, and Allan Jones starred.

•

Representatives of the industry met here Friday night at the Hollywood-Roosevelt to complete plans for the Red Cross drive.

•

M-G-M has purchased "Bad Bascomb," by D. A. Loxley, and "Taps for Private Tussie," a Jessie Stuart novel with a "Tobacco Road" flavor.

•

Loretta Young has signed a term contract with Universal and will star in "Home Is the Sailor" by Eric Hatch, with David Lewis producing.

•

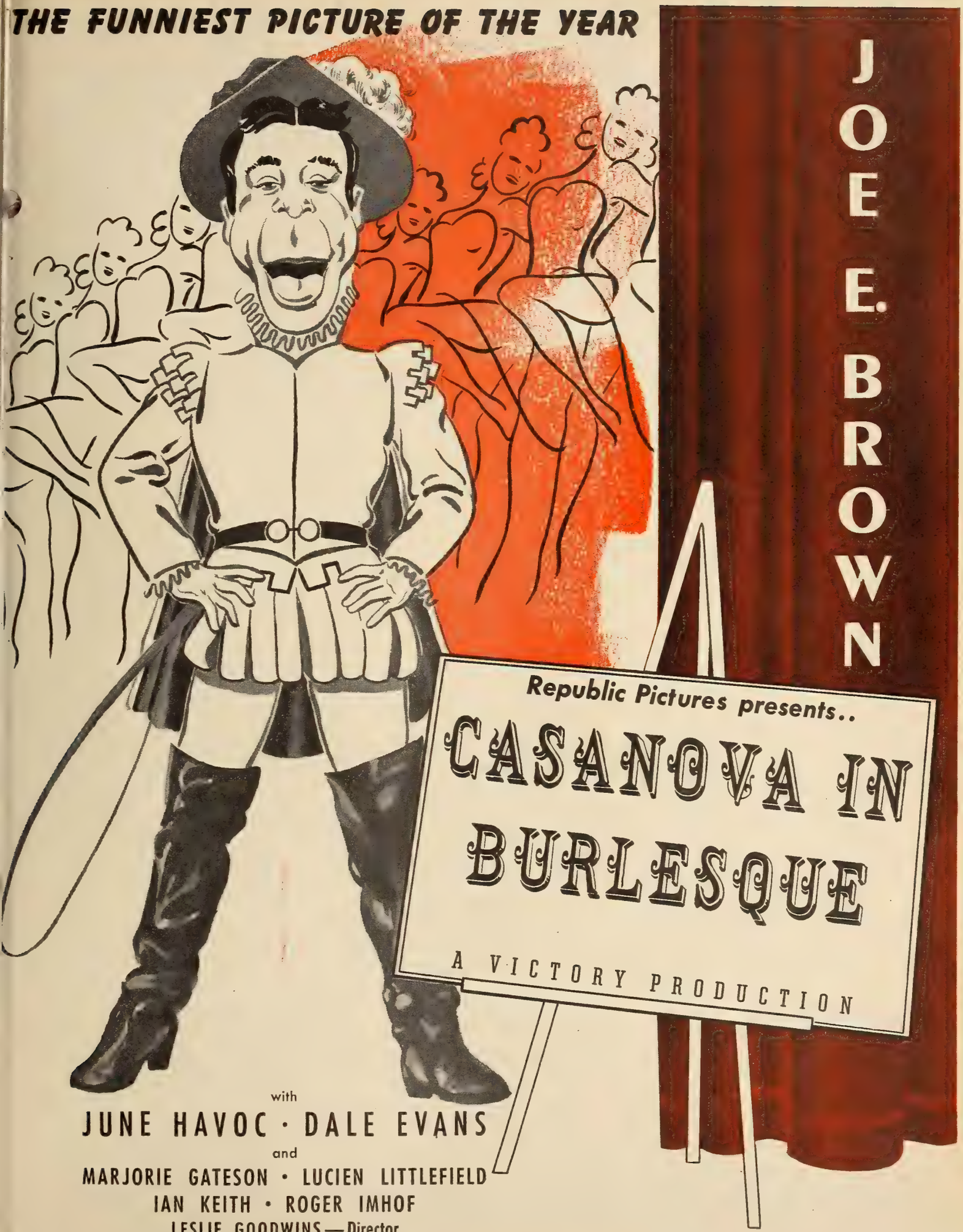
Voting in the M. P. Academy of Arts and Sciences awards election ended Friday night.

A. W. Ramsdell Is Buchanan Officer

Arthur W. Ramsdell, former vice-president and sales director of the Borden Company, has purchased an interest in and has become executive vice-president of Buchanan & Company, advertising agency. Ramsdell is past president of the National Federation of Sales Executives Clubs and in 1940 arranged the appearance of Elsie, the Borden cow, in the RKO production of "Little Men."

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

THE FUNNIEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR



JOE E. BROWN

Republic Pictures presents..

CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE

A VICTORY PRODUCTION

with

JUNE HAVOC · DALE EVANS

and

MARJORIE GATESON · LUCIEN LITTLEFIELD

IAN KEITH · ROGER IMHOF

LESLIE GOODWINS — Director

Original Screenplay by Frank Gill, Jr.

Based On a Story Idea by John Wales

Crockett Named to Tax Unity Council

The board of directors of MPTO of Virginia has approved the organization's participation in an industry-wide tax unity program and has designated William F. Crockett, president, as its representative therein, Crockett revealed to MOTION PICTURE DAILY here at the weekend. He will return to Norfolk today.

"Virginia exhibitors," Crockett said, "feel that a contemplated tax round-table is a great step forward for the industry. Such a conference can be of great assistance in film tax legislation which is bound to come up in the future."

Crockett revealed that some 290 theatres in Virginia have already collected $83,053 in the March of Dimes campaign, a 300 percent increase over 1943's $27,000. He stated that Virginia theatres will "fully participate" in the forthcoming Red Cross Drive.

Crockett said that the shortage of theatre help in Virginia "is terrific." Theatre owners are unable to secure even girl ushers, cashiers or ticket takers and the turnover in maintenance help is acute. Several upstate Virginia houses even used women projectionists recently. Although materials are available for theatre repairs it is difficult to secure anyone to make them, he said.

Crockett disclosed that he and his partner in Bayne-Roland Theatres are applying for permission to build a 1,000 seat first-run house at Virginia Beach, a war area.

Loew's Bond Sales Almost 13 Millions

Loew's reported here at the weekend that up to and including Feb. 22, 158,566 "E" bonds had been sold in its theatres for the Fourth War Loan drive, with a value of $12,844,038.

New York theatres sold 85,892 bonds, with a value of $7,292,238, while out-of-town theatres sold 72,674 bonds, valued at $5,551,800, the company stated.

Seventy-three war bond premieres, resulting in bond sales of $2,649,000, were reported by the Minneapolis War Activities Committee for the Fourth War Loan drive.

Total of $4,154,775 in bonds was sold for bond-admission shows in Southern Ohio during the drive, it was reported by Arthur Frudenfeld, RKO division manager, who is WAC industry chairman for the district.

Stralem Elected a Columbia Director

Donald S. Stralem has been elected to the board of directors of Columbia Pictures, the company reported here at the weekend. Stralem, who is a partner of Hallgarten and Co., New York, is also a director of U. S. Leather and Stahl-Meyer and is president of Travelers Aid Society.

Para. Will Do NAM Film

Paramount will make a two-reel educational film, tentatively titled "The Triangle of Plenty," from the *Reader's Digest* article, for the National Association of Manufacturers. Leslie Roush will direct.

"Going My Way"

(Continued from page 1)

the fact that he's been put in charge of the parish to bring the church through financial difficulties, but to bring it through nevertheless. Crosby, as Father O'Malley, who had his own dance band in his college days and used to workout with the St. Louis Browns because they wanted him to, writes a fine song, entitled "Going My Way," to raise money for the church. The music publishers reject that one, but take a swing number he's knocked out for the choir boys' amusement, the money for which serves the same purpose. That's the long and short of the script, but not the heart and soul of it, which are not things to be disposed of in a synopsis but are things to be experienced with realization and relish from a seat in any auditorium.

CROSBY'S performance is masterly in its understatement, which in this case does not mean the same thing as restraint, but as the picture goes along the performance of Barry Fitzgerald, as the elder priest, overshadows it in richness and feeling. The two, blending like colors in a rainbow, are more than enough to compensate audiences for their 125 minutes and the prevailing price of admission.

But there is more than this in the picture. There is, of particular importance to exhibitors whose patronage includes the addicts of upper-layer music, the presence of Rise Stevens, Metropolitan Opera star, who sings "Carmen" with all the trimmings and some other songs without them. And for the juniors, and the parents of juniors, there is choral singing by a band of youngsters led by Stanley Clemens—who provides a performance that is a landmark in its own tough-guy division—who do their singing in their play togs instead of vestments and swing some of it for variation.

There are performances by Frank McHugh, Gene Lockhart, Jean Heather and Eily Malyon, and by Fortunio Bonanova and William Frawley, which add to the charm and impact of the whole without dimming in any degree the lustre of the Crosby-Fitzgerald achievement (which is one not to be forgotten when Academy voting time comes around again a year hence).

To "Carmen," "Ave Maria" and other staples have been added some new songs by Johnny Burke and James Van Heusen—notably the title song—which have about them those qualities which make for 'Hit Parade' status when Crosby has worked his magic with them on the Kraft Music Hall airshow.

Running time, 125 minutes. "G."* Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

*"G" denotes general classification.

No Directed Verdict In Jackson Park Case

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—After two days of defense arguments, Judge Michael Igoe at the weekend overruled motions for a directed verdict of "Not Guilty" on behalf of the nine defendants in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust suit. The trial is expected to continue two more weeks.

The court's action followed an earlier plea by Thomas G. McConnell, attorney for the plaintiffs, who charged that his clients were under duress and would have to go out of business if justice failed to give them the right to bid for the product of the distributors. Balaban and Katz is the principal defendant.

Griffis Will Confer With Flinn, Freeman

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—Stanton Griffis, chief of the motion picture bureau of the Office of War Information, will arrive here today from the East to confer with John C. Flinn, coordinator of the Hollywood division of the War Activities Committee, and Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president of Paramount in charge of studio operations and president of the Association of Motion Picture Producers.

While here Griffis will make his headquarters at the Paramount studio. He expects to remain on the Coast two weeks.

'Watch' Tops Foreign Language Circle Poll

Warner's "Watch on the Rhine" was selected as the best film of 1943 by the New York Foreign Language Film Critics' Circle, during a broadcast last night over station WNYC here. William C. Edlin, president of the Circle and editor of *The Day*, presented a scroll to Albert S. Howson of Warners. On the speaking schedule were: Edward Corsi; State Labor Commissioner, and Prof. Frederic M. Thrasher of New York University, who discussed the influence of American films on citizens of foreign origin. Sigmund Gottlober, executive director of the Foreign Critics, presided.

Second place went to Noel Coward's "In Which We Serve," third to "The Human Comedy," while fourth was a tie between "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Random Harvest," "This Is the Army" and "Casablanca."

Blumberg Here for Universal Meetings

Nate Blumberg, Universal president, is due in New York today for pre-convention sales conferences with home-office executives. He will attend the annual stockholders' meeting in Wilmington March 8, when the board of directors is to be elected. Blumberg will also attend the annual board meeting here on April 3, when officers are to be elected.

Films' Essentiality Unchanged by WMC

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The War Manpower Commission at the weekend issued a new list of essential activities, brought up to date, but indicated no changes in those listings affecting the film or radio industries.

Still included as essential activities are the production of motion pictures both technical and vocational training for the Army, Navy and war production industries; film processing; news reels; development of sensitized film; production of radio and television equipment and Vinylite transcriptions, and radio broadcasting and television.

It was explained that the list serves as a general guide upon which manpower programs for allocating labor to different needs are based. It is used, among other purposes, in determining whether workers may transfer from job to job with approval of the U. S. Employment Service and by the Selective Service boards in reviewing requests for occupational deferment.

RKO Service Corp., Union Meet Tomorrow

Conferences will be held here tomorrow between RKO Service Corp. and the new Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers, Assistants and Cashiers Guild of RKO managers, which is seeking certification as collective bargaining agent for all metropolitan RKO managers, assistant managers and cashiers.

The union, now preparing contract demands, is headed by George Dunn, manager of RKO's 81st St. A steering committee consists of Harold Daly, 23rd St. Theatre; A. E. Arnstein, 58th St.; John Thompson, Hamilton; Joseph Tully, Richmond Hill; Laurence F. Greib, Albee; Leon Kelmer, Kenmore, and Harry Lyons, Madison. The guild is represented by H. N. Glickstein of Boudin, Cohn and Glickstein.

Warner Executives To Confer on Coast

Ben Kalmenson, Mort Blumenstock and Samuel Schneider, Warner executive, will leave the latter part of this week for the Coast to confer with Jack L. Warner and Charles Einfeld on releases for Spring and Summer.

Einfeld will accompany the party back to New York, about March 15, to work on the world premiere and national launching of "The Adventures of Mark Twain." Jesse L. Lasky, producer of "Twain," will come East the end of this week to remain until the premiere at the Hollywood Theater in April.

OCR Will Assist Exhibitor Operation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Regional representatives of the Office of Civilian Requirements are undergoing a week's training in Washington designed to acquaint them with functions of the recreation section and other branches of the Service Trade Division, it was disclosed at the weekend.

An OCR representative is to be assigned to each War Production Board regional office, to assist exhibitors and other operators of service establishments in maintaining service.



SPEAKING OF BEST SELLERS...



Not for a day. Not for a week. Not for a month. Not for 1 year. But for 24 years, have Trailers been the best sellers for pictures. The one seller proved by statistics to be never in the cellar. Still supreme in arousing consumer interest; entertaining as it sells; selling as it entertains. The big magnet that pulls 'em in, draws 'em in, gets 'em in. That makes houses sell out and people shell out. The best seller of *all* best sellers. Little old trailer . . . the empty seat's worst enemy.

BUY WAR BONDS

NATIONAL Screen SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

STANDARD ACCESSORIES • TRAILERS • SPECIAL ACCESSORIES

'Lady' Gets $37,000 in Rainy L. A.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 27.—Rain that came down in torrents from Friday through Monday, turning into hail at times and accompanied by lightning which blacked out sections of the city and snarled the common carrier systems, knocked grosses down like ten pins. "Lady in the Dark," in its second week at the two Paramounts after a record start, was the only attraction to beat house averages, getting $37,000 to beat the combined average by $5,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 23:

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $11,880).

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $15,692).

"The Iron Major" (RKO)
"Escape to Danger" (RKO)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 4 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $10,590).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
FOUR STAR—(900) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $7,570).

"Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
"The Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $5,865).

"What a Woman" (Col.) 2nd week
"She's for Me" (Univ.) 7 days
HILLSTREET — (2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c). Gross: $16,000. (Average: $19,544).

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $23,577).

"The Iron Major" (RKO)
"Escape to Danger" (RKO)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 5 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,200. (Average: $14,354).

"What a Woman" (Col.) 2nd week
"She's for Me" (Univ.) 7 days
PANTAGES — (2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c). Gross: $17,000. (Average: $16,846).

"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $11,115).

"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-75c-90c). Gross: $31,000. (Average: $21,307).

"The Iron Major" (RKO)
"Escape to Danger" (RKO)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 4 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $9,873).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 9th week. Gross: $19,800. (Average: $27,967).

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
UPTOWN — (1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $10,318).

"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNER'S HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $16,486. (Average: $16,362).

"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNERS' DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $17,930. Average: $18,480).

"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNERS' WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $16,282. (Average: $17,162).

To Screen 2 Navy Films

"Battle for the Beaches," with a narration by Quentin Reynolds, and "Your Ship in Action" will be screened tomorrow at the Preview Theatre here by the Navy Department The films were compiled by the department's industrial incentive division and were filmed by Army, Navy and Marine combat photographers.

Review

"You Can't Ration Love"

(Paramount)

PARAMOUNT, in a skittish mood, takes a merry side-glance at "rationing," whipping up an ingratiating musical in "You Can't Ration Love." Associate producer Michel Kraike has peopled his picture with Betty Rhodes, Johnnie Johnston, Bill Edwards, Marjorie Weaver, Marie Wilson, Johnnie (Scat) Davis, and others, while director Lester Fuller interspersed amusing events with beguiling melodies and energetic dance tempos.

Adams College campus, almost swept bare of males, has instituted a point-value system of dates for its remaining men. Co-ed Betty Rhodes, who is running low on points and is, consequently, fearful of losing rugged Bill Edwards to Marjorie Weaver, decides to build unmagnetic Johnnie Johnston into the campus glamour boy. She succeeds in his transformation so well that she becomes enamored of him and so do the other girls. Johnston and Miss Rhodes are reunited in a real marriage ceremony after he seemingly has cooled upon learning that she employed a fake device to keep him for herself.

Miss Rhodes, equally adept as co-ed and warbler of torch songs, and Johnston, convincing as a bespectacled scholar who blossoms into a croon-swooner, are excellent. Miss Wilson and "Scat" Davis add comical talents to the proceedings, while Roland Dupree, Jean Wallace, Christine Forsythe and Mabel Paige round out the cast. D'Artega and his all-girl orchestra are spotted in some good musical numbers. Worthy of notation is a charming sequence wherein Betty and Johnnie, he still on the timid side, ride through the darkened countryside in a surrey with Johnnie spouting chemical formulas as she desperately tries to stress the romantic environment.

Lester Lee and Jerry Seelen have written some eminently pleasing tunes, outstanding of which are "Nothing Can Replace a Man" and "Love Is This." Val Burton and Hal Fimberg did a successful screenplay on the quaint idea of love "rationing" from Muriel Roy Bolton's story.

Running time, 78 mins. "G."* Released in Block 4.

CHARLES RYWECK

"G" denotes general classification.

'Guy Named Joe' Is $4,200 Over Par

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 27.—"A Guy Named Joe" here at Loew's Poli this week took $13,200, while at the Paramount, "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and "Minesweeper" packed a $10,000 house.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 24:

"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
"Hands Across the Border" (Rep.)
BIJOU—(1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $3,600).

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"The Racket Man" (Col.)
COLLEGE—(1,565) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,500).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S-POLI—(3,005) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $13,200. (Average: $9,000).

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
"Minesweeper" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $6,400).

"In Our Time" (WB)
"The Falcon and the Co-Eds" (RKO)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,000).

Chicago Clearance Complaint Dropped

The clearance complaint of Charles E. Nelson, operating the Lawndale Theatre, Chicago, against the five decree consenting companies has been withdrawn at the Chicago tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported over the weekend. The withdrawal followed an agreement, the terms of which were not disclosed.

Para. 'Pep Club' Party

The Paramount "Pep Club" held a party Friday evening at the home office here. "Oldtime" films were screened. G. Knox Haddow is club president.

$70,000 Advance Sale For Jewish Charity

More than $70,000 worth of tickets have already been sold for the "Show of Shows" in Madison Square Garden March 13, it was announced here at the weekend following a meeting of the entertainment committee for the event, which is being sponsored by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

Also announced was a partial list of performers including Milton Berle, Ed Sullivan and Bert Lytell as masters of ceremonies, and Ruth Gordon, Paul Robeson, Paula Laurence, Carol Bruce, Jimmy Durante, Oscar Levant, Zero Mostel, Zorina, Karen Cooper, Bobby Clark, Gertrude Lawrence, Hazel Scott, Gracie Fields, Maria Montez, Berry Brothers, Rockettes and Ted Lewis and his band.

2,000 Victor Workers At 'Voice' Premiere

CAMDEN, N. J., Feb. 27. — Over 2,000 workers of RCA's Victor plant here attended the world premiere of United Artists' "Voice in the Wind," at the Lyric Theatre here last night. Francis Lederer and Sigrid Gurie, co-stars of the picture, made personal appearances. They also appeared on Victor's radio program, "What's New," over the Blue Network.

Local civic and social leaders attended the premiere, as well as trade press representatives from New York, Philadelphia and this city. Present from U. A. were: Lou Pollack, Arthur Jeffrey, Arnold Stoltz, Wilma Freeman, Phil Laufer, Robert Goodfried, Herb Berg and Ben Schetman, representing the producers, Arthur Ripley and Rudolph Monter.

House Par $14,000, 'Joe' Hits $26,000

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 27.—"A Guy Named Joe" is far and away the leader in grosses this week, with approximately $26,000. Patronage of "Spitfire," accompanied by "Henry Aldrich Haunts a House," at the Orpheum, increasing as the engagement advances, promises $15,000 or more.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 23-24:

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,500).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $14,000).

"No Time for Love" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60s) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,000).

"Spitfire" (RKO)
"Henry Aldrich Haunts a House" (Para.)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $10,000).

"Spider Woman" (Univ.)
"The Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,400).

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000).

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $1,250. (Average: $1,450).

'In Our Time' Runs Up $16,500 Gross

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 27.—"In Our Time" at Warners will take top honors this week with $16,500. Close on its heels follows the $16,000 for "Fighting Seabees" at the Riverside with Clyde Lucas and his orchestra plus Marion Hutton on the stage.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 26:

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
WISCONSIN — (3,200) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $15,600. (Average: $13,000).

"For Whom the Bell Tolls" (Para.)
PALACE—(2,400) (75c-$1.10) Special engagement, 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $9,500).

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
STRAND—(1,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,000).

"In Our Time" (WB)
"Week-End Pass" (Univ.)
WARNER—(2,400) (44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $14,000).

"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
ALHAMBRA—(1,900) (44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
RIVERSIDE—(2,700) (44c-50c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Plus Clyde Lucas and Marion Hutton on the stage. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $13,000).

RWLB Hearing Set on Stagehands' Demands

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 27.—A Regional War Labor Board hearing has been set for the week of March 13 here on a wage dispute between the stagehands union and St. Louis theatres. Negotiations which have been in progress since last Sept. 1, on the union's demands for a 15 percent wage increase and two weeks' vacation with pay, are deadlocked.

The wage scale for these workers is now $75 per week. First run houses, which under the agreement with the union must hire five stagehands, and some of the neighborhood houses, are opposing the union's demands.

Alberts Opening Office

Mel Alberts has resigned from the local law firm of Milton C. Wiseman, effective March 6, to open his own law office in the Paramount Building.

Theatre Boom Seen In Postwar Brazil

A postwar theatre building boom for Brazil, with American films dominating, was the prospect held out by Columbia's Brazilian general manager, Sigwart Kusiel, at a press interview here at the weekend.

Kusiel, in New York for six weeks conferences, stressed the fact that, with foreign competition diminished since the beginning of the war and almost non-existent since Brazil's break with the Axis, American product has gained much popularity with Brazilians.

Native product, according to Kusiel, offers no competition to imported films. So far the only playing time given native product is to meet the requirement that each theatre play at least one Brazilian feature a year and one native-produced short with each show. The shorts, backbone of the Brazilian industry, are chiefly documentary.

"Such pictures as 'Desperadoes' and others in that vein," said Kusiel, "are the big money-makers in Brazil. Business is generally better than in prewar days, although the industry has enjoyed no such increase as it has in America and England. Due to the difficulty of transportation, there are no extended runs in the metropolitan areas .

Brazilian theatres, of which there are from 1,300 to 1,400, are chiefly owned or controlled by circuits in the larger cities, according to Kusiel.

'World' Is Big With $18,000 Take

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 27.—"Around the World" coupled with a stage show, was headed for an $18,000 week at the Orpheum here, and "What a Woman" promised $13,000 at the State. Other situations slumped somewhat due to below-zero weather.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 26:

"Is Everybody Happy?" (Col.)
GOPHER—(998) (35c) 7 days. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $3,700).
"In Old Oklahoma" (Rep.)
LYRIC—(1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,600).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,400).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,700).
"Around the World" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(2,800) (45c-60c) 7 days. On stage: Ink Spots, Ella Fitzgerald, "Cootie" Williams orchestra, Moke and Poke. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,900).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $2,400).
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.) 4 days
"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.) 4 days
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days with midweek change. Gross: $2,200. (Average: $2,600).

$7,000,000 to AER From 'This Is Army'

Washington dispatches at the weekend quoted Irving Berlin as saying that nearly $7,000,000 in profits from performances of "This Is the Army" have gone to the Army Emergency Relief and $322,100 to British charities.

Berlin, who is in the Capital after an 11-week tour in the British Isles, said "The Army" will open in Algiers in April and then probably play Oran, Palermo and Naples.

Review

"The Hour Before the Dawn"

(Paramount)

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S dramatic story of an earnest young English pacifist who became involved with an attractive but utterly unscrupulous Nazi operative in the early days of the war, has been transferred into an interesting and entertaining film by Paramount. "The Hour Before the Dawn" features Franchot Tone and Veronica Lake and a fine supporting cast. It should find favor with the customers and do well at the box office.

Associate producer William Dozier has provided an attractive production for the action which is set against the English countryside, and director Frank Tuttle keeps the story moving in tracing events which transformed Tone from a pacifist into an RAF pilot.

Michael Hogan's screenplay from Lesser Samuel's adaptation of the Maugham novel is excellent. Tone's aversion to killing is established in a childhood sequence when he accidentally shoots his pet dog. It is quite understandable that he should abide by his convictions, when England goes to war with Germany, despite the background of his aristocratic family. Miss Lake, a Nazi agent posing as an Austrian refugee, is welcomed into the family by Tone's sister-in-law and Tone falls in love with her. Sneering at the smug complacency of the family, Miss Lake goes about her task. When she faces internment as an enemy alien, she marries Tone to carry out her mission of directing Nazi bombers to the secret English airfields in the vicinity. Tone kills her when her activities are exposed and in doing so he manages to overcome his phobia.

Binnie Barnes delivers a neat performance as Tone's sister-in-law; so does Henry Stephenson as the father of Tone and John Sutton, an RAF pilot. Others include Philip Merivale, Nils Asther and Edmond Breon.

Running time, 73 mins. "G."* Released in block No. 4.

MILT LIVINGSTON

*"G" denotes general classification.

Deny SAG Demurrer To WB Complaint

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 27.—Superior Judge Alfred Paonessa has denied the Screen Actors Guild demurrer to Warner's amended complaint seeking an order restraining the guild from enforcing Rule 33 in connection with production of "Hollywood Canteen," asking judicial definition of the status of the studio basic agreement between Warners and the guild.

Additionally, the Court denied the guild's motions to strike out certain portions of the complaint. Now it is mandatory for the guild to file an answer within 15 days, after which a trial date will be set.

O'Connor of Midwest Circuit Dies at 54

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 27.—John J. O'Connor, 54, former vaudevillian and in recent years producer of stage and radio shows for Fox-Midwest, and manager of theatres here for the circuit, died recently at his home here. He is survived by his wife, six sisters and one brother.

The funeral at Guardian Angel Church was largely attended. Pallbearers were managers of Fox-Midwest and Senn Lawler, district manager.

Frank Burns Dies

Frank F. Burns, 69, retired theatre manager and one time vaudevillian, died recently in Yonkers General Hospital. He was an uncle of James Gleason, motion picture actor. His son, Charles F. Burns is manager of a Loew house in Yonkers. Burns was formerly associated with the Keith Circuit and was manager of the Passaic, N. J., Playhouse before his retirement. Surviving, besides his son and nephew, are a brother and a sister.

RKO Officials Attend 'Snow White' Banquet

CINCINNATI, Feb. 27.—RKO president Ned E. Depinet attended a "Snow White" banquet in the Netherlands Plaza here at the weekend, with other home office officials including Robert Mochrie, Edward L. Alperson, S. Barret McCormick, Harry Mandell, Walter Branson, Nat Levy, Sol Schwartz, Harold Mirisch, Terry Turner, Fred Ford, Bob Hickey, Tod Wynn, Ralph Banghart and Linus Travers.

Governors John W. Bricker of Ohio and Simeon Willis of Kentucky were among the speakers at the gathering, which drew 800 people to see Miss Vera Collins of Middletown, O., crowned "Princess Snow White" by Deems Taylor. The Disney film is being reissued.

'Desert Song', Dorsey Pull Heavily in Chi.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Biggest boom of the Winter established records at Loop theatres with capacity patronage spanning the weekend through Washington's birthday. "Desert Song" neted highest of single feature runs with $36,000. Tommy Dorsey's band and Gene Krupa, with "The Racket Man" on the screen, soared to $56,000 at the Oriental, hitting a four-year record.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 28:

"Jack London" (UA) 3 days, 2nd week
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M) and "Minesweeper" (Para.) 4 days
APOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $11,400).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
CHICAGO—(3,850) (50c-65c-85c) 6½ days, 3rd week (Thursday night, War Bond Premiere, "A Guy Named Joe"). Stage: Phil Regan, Robert Crum. Gross: $42,000. (Average: $51,500).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"The City That Stopped Hitler" (Para.)
GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $9,100).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 5th Loop week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $9,100).
"The Racket Man" (Col.)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days. Stage: Tommy Dorsey and Band with Gene Krupa. Gross: $56,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
PALACE—(2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $28,500. (Average: $24,600).
"Desert Song" (WB)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $36,000. (Average: $20,400).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
STATE-LAKE—(2,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $29,000).
"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M)
UNITED ARTSTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $20,200).
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
"Revenge of Zombies" (Mono.)
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $10,000).

MPA Meets Tomorrow

Motion Picture Associates will meet tomorrow at the Hotel Astor here at 12:45. The agenda includes naming of committees on membership, charity, fund raising, constitution, and election, according to Morris Sanders, president.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.
NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING
of
"THE FALCON OUT WEST"
THURS., MARCH 2, at 11:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M.
RKO PROJECTION ROOM
630 Ninth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Biddle Would Halt Film and Other Cartels

(Continued from page 1)

industry, both domestic and foreign, relating to foreign trade or commerce, plus release to the industry of the world the fruits of the research conducted by Germany during the past 10 years, including motion picture and motion picture equipment research.

Publication of agreements would affect any deals which might be consummated between J. Arthur Rank, British film magnate, and American companies, and a further possible threat to any arrangements which Rank might make for European film distribution is seen in the attorney general's suggestion that the United States Government adopt a policy of assisting all American producers to gain access to foreign markets on the theory that such markets should be opened to all American companies and not to just a few.

Would Release Axis Findings

Biddle urged world release of Axis research results on the ground that while the work was financed by the German government and is being used against us, the people of the world actually are paying for the research by the war contributions they must make to produce weapons and matériel to meet it.

Publication of all cartel agreements, he said, would disclose to the public any arrangements that might be entered into which would artificially limit supplies or raise prices to the public or divide world markets.

New 1c-on-5c Tax Effective April 1

(Continued from page 1)

Senate rejected the veto emphasized the determination of Congress to increase taxes no further at this time, displayed by the House Thursday by a three-to-one vote. In either chamber a two-to-one vote would have been sufficient to override the veto.

In addition to the higher admission tax, for which exhibitors will be the Treasury's collection agents, the industry will be affected by increased rates on electric light bulbs and tubes, telephone bills and long-distance telephone calls, passenger transportation and postal service.

Honor Max A. Cohen

Max A. Cohen, president of Cinema Circuit here, will be made an honorary member of the Motion Picture Bookers Club of New York at an open meeting at the Astor Hotel tonight. Both distribution and theatre executives will attend.

Michael Husson Dies

BOSTON, Feb. 27.—Michael Husson, with the Film Delivery Service in Lynn, Lowell and Haverhill for several years, died here recently.

WAC Names Chairmen of New Exchange Field Force

(Continued from page 1)

forces in 11 WAC districts. The distributor chairmen in each district will be the branch manager of the same company in charge locally and the district manager of that company will be asked to support and coordinate all activities relating to his district.

The new set-up, it was felt, will enable the WAC to avail itself of the services of district managers who, up to this time, have not been used to the maximum possible advantage.

Owing to the overlapping of various companies' sales districts it was not possible in every case to have WAC districts conform.

Following is the list of appointees—some of whom are contributing "repeat performances" for the WAC—and their company affiliations:

Metropolitan District (M-G-M)—District manager, Jack Bowen, New York; Ralph Pielow, New York; B. Abner, New Jersey. **Northeast** (Paramount)—District manager, Wm. Erbb, Boston; A. M. Kane, Boston; Ed W. Ruff, New Haven; C. G. Eastman, Albany; M. A. Brown, Buffalo. **East** (RKO)—District manager, R. J. Folliard, Philadelphia; Charles Zagrans, Philadelphia; H. H. Greenblatt, Pittsburgh; J. B. Brecheen, Washington. **East Central** (United Artists)—District manager, Jack Goldhar, Detroit; Harris Dudelson, Cincinnati; Maury Orr, Cleveland; M. Dudelson, Detroit.

Also, **Southeast** (20th-Fox)—District manager, Paul Wilson, Atlanta; Fred R. Dodson, Atlanta; John E. Holston, Charlotte; E. V. Landaiche, New Orleans. **Southwest** (Columbia)—District manager, Sam Moscow, Atlanta; J. B. Underwood, Dallas; J. J. Rogers, Memphis; C. A. Gibbs, Oklahoma City. **Midwest** (M-G-M)—District manager, Sam Shirley, Chicago; W. E. Banford, Chicago; W. H. Workman, Minneapolis; H. J. Shumow, Milwaukee. **Indiana - Kentucky** (Republic)—Wm. Marriot, Indianapolis.

Also, **Prairie** (Universal)—District manager, J. E. Garrison, Kansas City; Harry Hynes, St. Louis; Jack Langan, Kansas City; Lou Levy, Des Moines; H. B. Johnson, Omaha. **Rocky Mountain** (RKO)—District manager, Len Gruenberg, Denver; Tom Bailey, Denver; G. Davison, Salt Lake City. **West Coast** (Warners)—District manager, Henry Herbel, Los Angeles; Vete Stewart, Seattle; Al Oxtoby, Portland; Al Shmitken, San Francisco; Fred Greenberg, Los Angeles.

Red Cross Leaders To Tour Key Cities

(Continued from page 1)

row as follows: Boston, to be addressed by Kalmenson, Kalmine and Harmon; Charlotte: Bernhard, Dembow and Smith; Salt Lake City: Depinet and Brandt.

Wednesday's meetings in Atlanta and Portland, Ore., will be addressed by Dembow and Smith taking the former and Depinet and Brandt the latter. On Thursday, Pittsburgh will hear Bernhard and Kalmenson; Milwaukee: Alperson and Shlyen; New Orleans: Dembow and Smith.

Friday's schedule is as follows: Minneapolis: Alperson, Shlyen; San Francisco: Depinet and Brandt. Next Monday, Cincinnati: Kalmenson, Kalmine and Martin G. Smith; Des Moines: Alperson and Shlyen; Los Angeles: Depinet and Brandt. Tuesday, March 7, Cleveland: Kalmenson, Kalmine, Martin Smith; Omaha: Alperson and Shylen. March 8, Buffalo: Kalmenson, Kalmine and Martin Smith; Kansas City: Alperson, Shlyen. March 9, St. Louis: Alperson and Shlyen. Meetings will be held in Philadelphia on March 13 and in Albany on March 15 with speakers to be announced. Several additional cities are being lined up by Bernhard.

Ames to Columbia

DALLAS, Feb. 27.—Ronald R. Ames, former publicist and exploitation man for RKO-Radio in Texas and Oklahoma, will arrive here this week to begin work in Columbia's exploitation department under Jack Underwood, local branch manager.

Film Shows 'SRO' on War Front, Says Raft

"Film theatres in London and those near the front and behind the lines in Italy and Africa always play to capacity," said George Raft at the weekend. He recently returned from a USO Camp Show tour overseas. He reported that service men and women on the fighting fronts are now seeing both old and new releases.

Among players in uniform whom Raft met abroad were Lt. Col. Ben Lyon and 1st Lt. Douglas Montgomery. Raft returned with Montgomery's air medal which the actor requested be given to his mother in California. Raft plans to return to the Coast and films after March 12, following air appearances here.

Renegotiation Funds Held Not Binding

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Reserves for renegotiation refunds to the Government which motion picture or film equipment or any other war contractors may set up and show in financial statements or reports are not to be regarded by Government renegotiation officials as binding on contractors, according to a ruling by the Joint Price Adjustment Board here.

NSS Shifts DuRyk Walthall and Allen

George Dembow, vice-president of National Screen, reports that Wallace Walthall, manager at Dallas, has been promoted to special representative out of the home office. Walthall will be succeeded in Dallas by F. W. Allen, who formerly handled East Texas. Charles DuRyk, sales representative in Salt Lake City, has been named manager at Denver.

Educational Films Project Is Aided By Major Companies

(Continued from page 1)

through the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America. The members of the commission are: Mark A. May, director of the Institute of Human Relations, Yale University, chairman; George S. Counts, director of the division of foundations of education, Teachers College, Columbia University; Edmund E. Day, president of Cornell University; Willard E. Givens, executive secretary of the National Education Association; Monsignor George Johnson, general secretary of the National Catholic Educational Association; and, ex officio, George F. Zook, president of the American Council on Education.

At a meeting in New York the commission made plans to establish an office and staff for carrying forward its studies. A widely representative National Board of Consultants is being organized to work with the commission.

Armed Forces Offer Proof

Dr. May said "The experience of the Armed Forces in the use of motion pictures in their various training programs has demonstrated conclusively the great contribution to education of this medium of instruction. Schools and colleges in the postwar world must be ready to take advantage of the new opportunities which the motion picture medium presents.

"For several years the major motion picture production companies have made available to schools through Teaching Film Custodians, Incorporated, certain non-current short subjects and excerpts from feature pictures selected by educators as having potential educational value. The support of the work of this commission by the industry is in line with its general policy of cooperating with educational organizations and in aiding them to secure better films for classroom use."

Kelly to Coast to Line Up Producers

(Continued from page 1)

tion will begin within six months after consummation of deals with producers, he expects.

Further distribution plans will wait upon deals with producers. More than 50 sales executives and salesmen have already communicated with Kelly to discuss their joining the new company. But no decisions will be made until he returns from the Coast. He stressed that Eagle would go to a major company to handle physical distribution only in such key cities where, due to wartime conditions, the company is unable to establish its own exchanges.

To Examine Schenck In Grafton Film Suit

Examination before trial of Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, will begin on March 6, in the $1,000,000 damage suit pending in Federal Court here against Loew's as filed by Grafton Films.

The suit alleges improper distribution of Grafton's "The Stars Look Down."

DO NOT REMOVE

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 41 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1944 TEN CENTS

Cite Value of Showmen's Annual Awards

Joseph Vogel Addresses Luncheon for Judges

The annual Quigley Showmanship Awards competition attract some of the best theatre talent in the country year after year, Joseph R. Vogel, head of Loew's out-of-town theatres, stated yesterday in addressing approximately 75 persons who attended the 10th annual judging at the Hotel Astor, followed by a luncheon.



Joseph R. Vogel

Vogel said it had been his observation and that of other Loew's executives that the circuit's managers who are most frequently singled out for promotion are

(*Continued on page 7*)

Four-City Rallies of Exhibitors for Drive

More than 1,500 theatres in the Washington, Detroit, New Haven and Denver territories were represented in four Red Cross exhibitor rallies held yesterday as the first of the nationwide series of key city meetings to launch the motion picture industry's 1944 Red Cross drive, March 23-29.

Joseph Bernhard, national chairman of the industry's campaign, and Sam Dembow and A. W. Smith were prin-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Kentucky Advances 20 Per Cent Tax

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 28.—Kentucky's house of representatives has passed a bill calling for a 10 per cent increase in the present 10 per cent state tax on admissions and the measure is expected to be acted upon by the senate this week. The bill provides that proceeds from the tax be applied to the construction of tuberculosis sanitariums within the state.

A late amendment to the tax bill stipulates that it is to be repealed or discontinued on July 1, 1946.

Company Heads Will Meet Studio Unions On Three New Pacts

Negotiations between major companies and IATSE officials covering new contracts for some 10,000 studio technicians and workers whose contracts expired Dec. 31, 1943, will get under way here March 6 at the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact.

Discussions between the Conference of Studio Unions, comprising seven AFL locals, and the company heads will begin March 10. Meetings between seven other AFL international unions, signatories of the studio basic labor agreement, are scheduled for March 13 or 14.

Principal item on the IATSE agenda is the union's proposal that the companies levy five per cent of their gross pay checks to the estimated 10,000 studio union workers to finance a "retirement, vacation and health benefit fund" to be controlled by the

(*Continued on page 8*)

Graetz Made Ealing U.S. Representative

Paul Graetz, president of Transcontinental Films, Inc., of Hollywood and head of the AFE Corp. of New York, has been named United States, Canadian and Latin American representative for Ealing Studios of London.

Graetz will supervise distribution of 20 Ealing films to be released here during the next year, 12 of them within the next four months. The first

(*Continued on page 7*)

Unrestricted Appeal From WMC Rulings

Washington, Feb. 28.—The War Manpower Commission, under revised rules, is now allowing both workers and employers the unrestricted right of appeal from its decisions, chairman Paul V. McNutt has announced. The order is understood to apply to the film industry, in which many cases have been heard by area WMC boards on unsuccessful appeals to have theatre and exchange employes declared essential.

'Lady' Hits $131,000 Here; Weekend Snow Cuts Grosses 20%

Light snow and rain last weekend sent some Broadway theatre grosses down 10 to 20 percent resulting in the lowest grosses in many weeks, although they were still above par.

"Lady in the Dark," at the Paramount, with a stage show headed by Xavier Cugat and his band, is said to have ended its first week last night with $131,000 to set a new high for that theatre.

The fourth and final week for "Jane Eyre" and a stage show at Radio City Music Hall will yield about $93,000 to wind up a brief but profitable run. Samuel Goldwyn's "Up in Arms" will open there Thursday. "The Sullivans" and a stage show headlining Martha Raye at the Roxy will wind up its

(*Continued on page 8*)

7,000 Office Workers Under Wing of AFL

Plans International for Film, Other Workers

More than 7,000 union white collar workers in the film industry are seen as eventually being affected by a plan of the American Federation of Labor to charter a new international union composed of all office workers, which potentially could be the largest in the Federation.

The AFL's executive council has instructed president William Green and secretary-treasurer George Meany to confer with officials of existing office workers' organizations and to issue an international charter to them as soon as technical questions of jurisdiction are adjusted.

Industry "white collarites" affected include 3,000 members of the Screen Office Employes Guild, comprising workers at most studios in California now affiliated with the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers; 3,000 office workers in exchanges

(*Continued on page 8*)

Honor Skouras at Coast Lunch Today

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28.—With Eddie Cantor as master of ceremonies, some 500 industry leaders tomorrow will give a testimonial luncheon at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills, to Charles P. Skouras, who recently completed his duties as national chairman of the Fourth War Loan Drive.

Speakers will include Louis B. Mayer, Y. Frank Freeman, Jack L. Warner, Joseph M. Schenck, B. V. Sturdivant,

(*Continued on page 7*)

Fromkess Is Manager Of PRC Companies

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28.—Leon Fromkess, vice-president in charge of Production of PRC Picturees, Inc., has been named also general manager of the company and of PRC Studio Corp. and PRC Productions, Inc., the studio announced today.

Such a step was anticipated by MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 3, when the resignation of O. Henry Briggs as president of PRC was confirmed.

Free French Preparing to Restore Film Industry

By JACK BERK

The Free French are well along with plans to restore the French motion picture industry and to resume film production in that country upon liberation. With the Allied invasion believed imminent, the Office Francaise d'Information Cinematographique, operating under the Free French Ministry of Information, headed by Henry Bonnet in Algiers, now is laying the groundwork, Dr. Simon S. Schiffrin, New York head of the films division of the Free French Press and Information Service, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here last week.

While the U. S. market for French

(*Continued on page 8*)

Korda Arrives for M-G-M Conferences

Sir Alexander Korda, British production head for M-G-M, arrived here yesterday from England for two weeks of conferences with home office and studio executives. Merle Oberon was scheduled to leave the Coast yesterday to join Korda in the East.

First picture under Korda's arrangement with M-G-M will be "Perfect Strangers," with Robert Donat and Deborah Kerr. Wesley Ruggles will direct at Denham Studios, London. Korda plans to return to England after his visit here.

Will Start Griffith Depositions Today

Taking of depositions in the Government's anti-trust suit against the Griffith Amusement Co., circuit operators in Texas and Oklahoma, will begin here this afternoon or tomorrow, according to Albert Boggess, Special Assistant U. S. Attorney General, who is associated with Robert L. Wright, senior counsel on the case. Paramount witnesses will be followed by those of other distributors. The suit, which has been pending for about three years, was originally brought against all eight majors as well as Griffith. The complaints against the five consenting companies were discontinued when the consent decree was signed, and a few months ago charges against the other three were dropped. Evidence, however, will be taken from all.

The suit is the outgrowth of complaints from independent exhibitors in the Griffith territory who alleged they had difficulty getting product. Henry S. Griffing and Charles B. Cochrane, attorneys for the defendant, arrived here last week from Oklahoma City.

Daff and Gain Are Leaving for London

Alfred E. Daff, Universal's foreign supervisor, is due to leave for England this week for a six-week visit, it was learned here yesterday. It is understood that Barrington C. Gain, director of General Film Distributors and financial adviser to J. Arthur Rank, who has been in this country studying American distribution methods, will accompany Daff.

The purpose of Daff's trip is understood to be in connection with Universal's future relations with the Rank organization now that Rank intends to distribute in this country. Universal films are distributed in England through Rank's General Film Distributors.

Dr. Alexander Galperson, distribution representative of Two Cities Films Ltd., will also return to London this week.

Ennis Heads Quigley Circulation Sales

Bert Ennis, veteran film writer and executive, has been appointed circulation sales promotion manager, effective yesterday, for Quigley Publications here.

Ennis has long been active in the industry, having been director of advertising and publicity for Columbia, the Roxy Theatre and Sawyer-Lubin Productions and others. He was a writer of Paramount's shorts and has written extensively for fan and national publications and for motion pictures and more recently did sales promotion for RCA, Pan American Airways, war loan drives, and others.

'Hargrove' for Astor

M-G-M's "See Here, Private Hargrove" will have its Broadway premiere at the Astor Theatre on Tuesday, March 21, with notables of the Army, Government and civic circles attending.

Personal Mention

NATE J. BLUMBERG, Universal president, and CLIFF WORK, vice-president and studio head, arrived in New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

R. S. COYLE has been promoted to assistant to Universal home office contract department manager J. J. JORDAN, replacing JACK HUBER, now in the Armed Forces. IRWIN SHERMAN has taken over Coyle's duties.

•

HARRY HIERSTEINER, Des Moines theatre operator, has announced the engagement of his son, WALTER HIERSTEINER and MISS JEAN NEWBERGER of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

•

LOUIS NIZER will address the Town Hall Club here March 14, and the Philadelphia Authors Club on April 10, on the subject of his new book: "What to Do With Germany."

•

BEN SIMON, 20th-Fox New Haven branch manager, is recuperating at Saybrook, Conn., after a recent operation.

•

MAJOR THORNTON FREEDLAND of the U. S. Army Signal Corps arrived from London over the weekend.

•

KERMIT CARR, former manager for Tri-States Theatres, Des Moines, is now at Ft. Sill, Okla.

•

TONY MASSELLA, former assistant at the Poli, New Haven, is now in the Signal Corps in California.

•

MIKE PICCERILLO, former assistant at the Globe, Bridgeport, is now a U. S. Army corporal in Ireland.

•

JACK GLACKIN of the Arch Street Theatre, New Britain, Conn., is on the sick list.

•

LOU BROWN, Loew's theatres New England publicity director, was a recent Hartford visitor.

•

CORP. PAUL AMATO, former assistant at E. M. Loew's Hartford, Hartford, Conn., is now in Sicily.

•

HERMAN J. SHUMOW, M-G-M Milwaukee branch manager, is convalescing from a recent illness.

•

MORRIS MECHANIC, owner of the New Theatre, Baltimore, is visiting here.

•

V. J. CHRISTENSEN, assistant studio manager for 20th-Fox, is due in New York from Hollywood.

•

HENDERSON M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor-relations director, has returned from Florida.

•

LOU CHAPMAN, Quigley Publications' advertising production manager, leaves March 9 for the Army.

•

JEWELL TRUEX of the Clasa-Mohme Film exchange, San Antonio, is recuperating from the "flu."

•

ALFRED VERMES, former Cleveland theatre manager, is now an Ordnance lieutenant here.

JOHN R. WOOD, March of Time sales manager, and GEORGE ROBERTS, MOT sales representative, left here last night for a Midwest tour, returning late this week.

•

JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ, 20th Century-Fox studio representative here, will leave today for the Coast for conferences with JOSEPH M. SCHENCK and DARRYL ZANUCK. He will return in two weeks.

•

JOEL LEVY, JR., son of JOEL LEVY, Loew's out-of-town booker, and formerly of the U. S. Army Signal Corps, is now an air cadet stationed at Carbondale, Ill.

•

TOM BAIRD, head of the motion picture section of the British Information Services here, is expected to return from Washington today.

•

MABEL DREW of 20th-Fox's radio department here is recuperating at the Roosevelt Hospital following an operation.

•

MARJORIE MORROW, Eastern head of Warner's talent bureau, leaves Friday on a scouting trip through the South.

•

BEN MELNIKER of M-G-M's home office legal department returned yesterday from a Lake Placid, N. Y., honeymoon.

•

LEON BONOFF of Madison and Saybrook, Conn., theatres, and MRS. BONOFF are en route to Florida to visit two sons in training.

•

CLIFF GIESEMAN, RKO San Francisco theatre zone manager, has been cited for the fifth time for local war work.

•

BERNARD LEVY, manager of Proven Pictures, Hartford, Conn., was in Boston the latter part of last week on Lieberman Circuit business.

•

GEORGE GOMPERT, 20th-Fox Philadelphia exploiteer, is visiting the home office.

•

ZELMA BROOKOV of Warner's Eastern talent bureau left last night for Boston.

•

HY CARNOW, member of the Warner press book staff, reports for Navy training on March 7.

•

RUDOLPH MONTER, United Artists producer, will arrive in New York from Hollywood today.

•

LARRY O'TOOLE, formerly manager for Paramount in Panama, is now a captain in the Army, stationed there.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, head of M-G-M exchange operations, has recovered after suffering a fractured rib.

•

CORP. LOUIS JACOBSON, formerly of Warners' New Haven exchange, and his bride are New York honeymooners.

•

KENNETH FIELD of the Rivoli Theatre, West Haven, Conn., and his bride are visiting in the city.

Film Leaders at 21 Foundation Meetings

Emphasizing the importance of the film industry in the affairs of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Basil O'Connor, its president, is inviting industry leaders to Foundation luncheons and dinners to be held, starting today in the following cities:

Louisville, today; Nashville, tomorrow; Chattanooga, March 2; Memphis, March 3; Jackson, 4; Birmingham, 6; Montgomery, 7; Winston-Salem, 8; Norfolk, 9; Richmond, 10; Raleigh, 11; Columbia, 13; Charleston, 14; Savannah, 15; Jacksonville, 16; Tallahassee, 17; Orlando, 18; St. Petersburg, 20; Tampa, 20; Miami, 21; Atlanta, 31.

Name Archibald BMI Film Division Head

LONDON, Feb. 28.—George Archibald, who recently resigned as head of the film division of the British Information Services in New York to return here, has been appointed controller of the British Ministry of Information films division.

Archibald succeeds Sylvester Gates. Thomas Baird took over Archibald's former activities in New York.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
Joan Fontaine • Orson Welles
"JANE EYRE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
GALA STAGE SHOW
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
First Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
GEORGE SANDERS
VIRGINIA BRUCE
GENE LOCKHART
'ACTION IN ARABIA'

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Spencer Tracy • Irene Dunne
"A GUY NAMED JOE"
In Person
BENNY CARTER and ORCH.

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnun, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.



ARMED TO THE TEETH!

"Calling All Patriotic Showmen!
Red Cross Drive March 23rd Through 29th"

Film Problems 90% Solved, Hopper Quits As WPB Film Head

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Declaring that 90 percent of the war problems of the industry have been solved, Harold Hopper yesterday formally retired as active chief of the motion picture section of the War Production Board. With his resignation he also disclosed that the State Department is arranging to aid U. S. films through reciprocal trade agreements with unnamed foreign countries.

Lincoln V. Burrows, who joined WPB at the same time as Hopper and has served as his assistant throughout the whole period of film-industry control, will succeed him as chief of the section. Burrows, prior to coming to Washington, was with Eastman Kodak and had spent much time in Hollywood in contact with the studios.

Raw Stock Bars Down Soon

Hopper, who has been anxious to return to his own interests for some time, practically washed up industry control. Administrating the construction limitation and raw stock orders, he eased the former last year by a succession of moves which eventually left the industry free to draft its own studio set program, subject only to certain over-all limitations. The raw stock restrictions are slated to be lifted as soon as the European invasion is an accomplished fact and all chances of a sudden film emergency are dissipated.

In giving up the dollar-a-year post to which he was named more than a year and a half ago, Hopper said he would return to Los Angeles where he was connected with the film business. Although his resignation is effective immediately, he will continue to serve the WPB as an adviser. In a parting statement he urged upon the industry the necessity of setting up a special committee for the purpose of presenting to the coming Allied peace table problems of the film business with respect to free access to world markets after the war.

State Department Taking Steps

"Upon returning to Washington recently I was gratified to learn that certain arrangements have already been made by the State Department in furtherance of the free and unhampered distribution of American films through the operations of reciprocal trade agreements," Hopper disclosed.

"But this is only one phase of the program which the industry should press for the removal of embargoes and other barriers to the free distribution of our films. The need exists for a permanent, well-organized industry committee, capable of dealing with national and international problems, particularly in relation to the peace conference and post-war conditions," he continued.

"Unless the industry lays the groundwork in advance for presenting its case it will miss a golden opportunity. The proper committee or agency should be set up now to begin preparing a program."

Hopper said the motion picture is probably the greatest salesman of American goods and the democratic way of life that could possibly be devised.

Review

"Knickerbocker Holiday"

(PCA-United Artists)

THE Maxwell Anderson-Kurt Weill Broadway musical comedy satire of several seasons back dealing with political corruption in New Amsterdam in Peter Stuyvesant's time, forms the basis of this gay, tuneful and entertaining film produced and directed by Harry Joe Brown as the initial production of Producers Corp. of America for United Artists release.

"Knickerbocker Holiday" features Charles Coburn as the imperious Dutch governor and Nelson Eddy as the singing, crusading printer as rivals for Constance Dowling, daughter of the chief councilman of the Dutch colony. Much of the original flavor of the Broadway production has been retained and it should provide film audiences with satisfactory escapist entertainment and do well at the box office.

David Boehn and Rowland Leigh provided a screenplay from an adaptation of the Anderson-Weill script by Thomas Lennon. The story is a simple one. To enable them to continue their profitable venture of cheating the people and the Indians, the New Amsterdam town council sends for Peter Stuyvesant to deal with the upstart printer who has been calling attention to their questionable activities. Stuyvesant immediately proceeds to "muscle in" on their business and they soon are out in the cold. When Stuyvesant sets his eye on Miss Dowling, Eddy has rough sledding, but everything works out in the end.

The supporting cast includes Ernest Cossart, Percy Kilbride, Johnny (Scat) Davis, Otto Kruger, Fritz Feld, Richard Hale and Chester Conklin. Carmen Amaya and her dancing group are featured in two specialty numbers. The best feature of the film is the tuneful musical score, which includes four of the Weill-Anderson numbers from the original play augmented by five numbers authored by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn, Forman Brown, Warner R. Heymann and Franz Steininger. Coburn is in fine fettle in handling "September Song" and "The Indispensable Man" with Cossart. Miss Dowling has an appealing voice in joining with Nelson Eddy in "Love Has Made This Such a Lovely Day," a new number by Styne and Cahn. The legions of Eddy fans will be well satisfied.

Jacques Samossoud is credited with musical direction, and Phil Tannura with photography. As both producer and director, Harry Joe Brown has given the proceedings a handsome production and capably guided the action.

Running time, 85 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

MILT LIVINGSTON

*"G" denotes general classification.

OWI Film Bureau Plans No Expansion

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28—The Office of War Information is planning no expansion of its domestic film activities and will not ask for any increase in its appropriation for the year beginning next July 1 over what it now has, it was learned here today.

Officials of the motion picture bureau are represented as believing that the $50,000 to which Congress restricted them last year is adequate for their activities as a clearing house and liaison between the Government and the film industry.

There is no desire to get back into production, where officials believe the industry can do a much better and more economical job than the Government, it was said. Greatest concern of the bureau today is the inability to secure 16mm. prints from the industry on current problems, such as juvenile delinquency, but conversations are going on which are expected to result in a satisfactory solution of the question.

Currently, aside from its liaison work, the bureau is engaged principally in handling 16mm. films of Government agencies and arranging for their non-theatrical distribution, for which it has built up agencies throughout the country.

Cameo, Jersey, Files Anti-Trust Action

Carmel, Inc., of Englewood, N. J., which states that it has been the owner of the Cameo Theatre, Jersey City, since 1938, filed a treble damage anti-trust action in Federal Court here yesterday against eight distributing companies. Defendants are Universal Pictures Corp., Columbia Pictures Corp., United Artists Corp., Paramount Film Distributing Corp., M-G-M Distributing Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., and 20th Century-Fox Film Corp.

Since 1938, according to the complaint, the defendants have conspired to monopolize the distribution and exhibition of feature films to the detriment of the Cameo, operated by Rosyl Amusement Corp., and to the detriment of the theatre property owned by the plaintiff.

Name Fetzer to Ryan Air Censorship Post

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Appointment of John E. Fetzer, owner of radio station WKZO, Kalamazoo, Mich., as assistant director of the Office of Censorship in charge of the broadcasting division, was announced here today by Director Byron Price.

Fetzer will succeed J. H. Ryan, who will leave the Censorship office April 15 to become president of the National Association of Broadcasters.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 28

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, and Edwin W. Aaron, circuit sales chief, arrived here over the weekend from New York. Rodgers will remain a week.

•

Marion Kirchner of the Monogram studio publicity staff, was married here at the weekend to Yeoman 1st class Joseph R. Murphy. Ceremony was performed by the Rev. Neal Dodd at the Saint Mary of the Angels Episcopal Church.

•

The industry's Red Cross campaign will open tomorrow at noon with mass meetings in all studios. Ceremonies, presided over by chairman Frank Carothers and directed by past chairman Robert Lewis, will be piped in from radio station KFWD.

•

W. R. Frank, indicating his intention to remain in production, has bought "Union Depot," which will be next on his schedule, and "Crossroads of the World," which will follow, thus delaying "Springtime in Vienna."

•

The Cabrini Foundation, Chicago, has granted a four-month leave of absence to Monsignor A. V. Simoni, who will be adviser on PRC's "Mother Cabrini."

•

Colbert Clark, formerly a Columbia producer, has returned to that company to produce Westerns.

•

Dick Currier has been signed as head film editor at Monogram after five years with Pathe Laboratories.

Academy Chooses 14 To Present Awards

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences today named 14 stars and officials to make the 1944 presentations at the award ceremonies Thursday night.

Greer Garson will present the trophy to the best actress; George Murphy, to the best actor; Teresa Wright, supporting actress, and Donald Crisp, supporting actor. Darryl Zanuck will make the Irving Thalberg award. Sidney Franklin will give out the prize for the best picture; Mark Rex Sandrich, for the best directing; James Hilton, writing; Howard Estabrook, documentary; Rosalind Russell, cinematography; Carole Landis, art directing; Y. Frank Freeman, technical; Dinah Shore, music, and Walter Wanger, short subjects.

Testify for Defense In Jackson Park Suit

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Clyde Eckhardt, 20th-Fox manager in Los Angeles, and James Donohue, Paramount district manager in Dallas, both former Chicago branch managers for the respective distributors, testified today for the defense in the Jackson Park anti-trust trial. They reviewed booking and film contracting conditions.

Ralph L. Goodman, research consultant, charged that U. S. Census statistics on the South Side indicated that the plaintiff's house is in an inferior location in comparison to the defendant theatres.

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PRC *Year*

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PRC

PICTURES INC.

OMING SOON! **"MINSTREL MAN"** *The Daddy of Minstrels*

A Great Story and a Great Cast

BENNY FIELDS
WILLIAM FRAWLEY

BINNIE BARNES
GERRA YOUNG

ALAN DINEHART
ROSCOE KARNS

Further Drop In Filming; 33 in Work

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28.—Checkup for explanation of the steady decline in the number of pictures in work discloses that almost every major studio is taking stock of backlogs and that the expected post-holiday production spurt might not materialize for another month, if then.

Eight pictures finished camera work and five new ones started during the week to bring the total on the stage down to 33. The previous week saw nine finished, five started, 36 in work. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Shooting: "Mr. Winkle Goes to War," "Pilebuck."
Finished: "At Night We Dream," "Mission Thirty-six."

M-G-M

Started: "Secrets in the Dark" with Robert Young, Susan Peters, Betty Lawler, Felix Bressart, Marta Linden, Alexander Granach, Katherine Balfour, Peggy Maley.
Shooting: "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "National Velvet," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross."
Finished: "Dragon Seed."

Monogram

Finished: "Detective Kitty O'Day."

Paramount

Shooting: "Practically Yours," "Bring on the Girls," "Road to Utopia," "Incendiary Blonde."
Finished: "And Now Tomorrow."

P. R. C.

Shooting: "Minstrel Man," "Shake Hands with Murder."

RKO-Radio

Shooting: "Heavenly Days," "Manhattan Serenade," "Casanova Brown" (International).

Republic

Started: "Yellow Rose of Texas" with Roy Rogers, Dale Evans; "Sons of Pioneers."
Shooting: "Silent Partners," "Storm Over Lisbon."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Irish Eyes Are Smiling" with Monty Woolley, Dick Haymes, Anthony Quinn, June Haver, Beverly Whitney, Veda Ann Borg.
Shooting: "Wing and a Prayer," "Keys of the Kingdom," "Sweet and Low-down," "Wilson," "In the Meantime, Darling."

United Artists

Shooting: "Sensations of 1944" (Stone).
Finished: "The Hairy Ape" (Jules Levey).

Universal

Started: "The Ghost Catchers" with Olsen and Johnson, Martha O'Driscoll, Gloria Jean, Diana Barrymore, Walter Catlett, Kirby Grant, Andy Devine, Leo Carrillo, Lon Chaney, Jr., Morton Downey. "South of Dixie" with Anne Gwynne, David Bruce, Samuel S. Hinds, Louise Beavers, Eddie Acuff.
Shooting: "Jungle Woman," "The Climax."
Finished: "Slick Chick."

Warners

Shooting: "Cinderella Jones," "My Reputation," "Janie."
Finished: "Mr. Skeffington."

Reviews

"The Navy Way"

(Paramount-Pine & Thomas)

Hollywood, Feb. 28

FILMED at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, largest in the world, this William Pine-William Thomas production introducing Robert Lowery as a star under the P-T banner is a departure from the strictly melodramatic type of product in which this company has specialized.

It's a story about men in training, inclusive of the recalcitrant who mends his ways under discipline, and it depicts both the men and the training with comprehensive care but stops short of depicting battles. It rates well above the standard established by its predecessors. Lowery portrays a professional boxer drafted into the Navy against his will, giving a strong performance. Bill Henry plays the sailor who competes with him for the hand of a WAVE, played by Jean Parker, and Roscoe Karns supplies the comedy quotient. Sharon Douglas, Robert Armstrong, Richard Powers and Mary Treen are others in the cast.

L. B. Merman served as associate producer and William Berke directed skillfully from an original screenplay written by Maxwell Shane with preservation of suspense a prime objective.

Running time, 74 minutes. "G."* Release date, March 31.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Sweethearts of the U.SA."

(Monogram)

FOLLOWERS of Una Merkel and Parkyakarkus will find "Sweethearts of the U. S. A." a Monogram musical to their liking, but to neutral observers these performers struggle futilely to overcome a script that is weak even for a musical. The pleasant portions of the film are those devoted to singing by Donald Novis and Lillian Cornell, an attractive newcomer. Monogram has not stinted on the music side, however, for the orchestras of Phil Ohman, Jan Garber and Henry King run through their melodic paces for the customers.

Proceedings involve operation of a night club for war workers, tracking down of three bank crooks and antics of the ghostly inhabitants of an old house. Lester Cutler produced, while George M. Merrick was associate producer. Lew Collins directed from a screenplay by Arthur St. Claire, Sherman Lowe and Mary Sheldon, derived from a story by Mary Sheldon. Lew Pollack and Charles Newman wrote the score. Other players are Joel Friend, Ralph Sanford, Cobina Wright, Sr., Judith Gibson, Vince Barnett, Marion Martin, and Joseph Kirk.

Running time, 60 mins. "G."* Release date, March 7.

CHARLES RYWECK

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Crescent Case to Be Heard in April

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Determination of the jurisdiction of the U. S. Supreme Court in pending appeals in the Crescent Amusement case was today postponed until the case is heard on its merits. Under this procedure, when the case comes up for argument, the first counsel to appear will be required to show that the Court has jurisdiction. If, on that argument, the Court finds it has jurisdiction, the case will be heard in its entirety.

Both the Government and the defendants are appealing from the decision of the Federal District Court at Memphis, the defendants attacking rulings on the acquisition of theatres, buying of pictures, franchises and mutual ownership. The case is expected to be reached for argument early in April.

Reissue 'Master Mystery'

Manny Baum and "Hardeen," brother of the late Houdini, will reissue the 15-two-reel episode serial "The Master Mystery," which starred Houdini, originally released in silent form by Octagon Films, Inc., 25 years ago. The reissue film will contain a narration and musical background.

PRC Election Now Off for Three Weeks

PRC Pictures' board meeting, originally set for this week, has been postponed for at least three weeks. Principal business on the agenda will be the election of officers. Formal approval by the board is expected to be given to modifications of PRC franchises agreed upon recently by franchise holders and company heads, led by Leon Fromkess, vice-president.

Balaban & Katz Has Plans for Post-War

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Taking its first step toward post-war expansion, Balaban and Katz has announced that it is acquiring a site on State and Lake Streets here for a large theatre. This will replace the circuit's smaller Apollo, located in the Ashland block, which is to be demolished to make way for a bus terminal.

First Woman Manager

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Eleanor Carlyle has been named the first woman manager of a Loop theatre here. She and a second woman to be named later, will co-manage the Clark, it was announced recently by director Edward Trinz. They will replace Howard Lubliner and William Horvatic, who will be inducted soon.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, Feb. 28

PRODUCER Edmund Hartman, former writer, has put Universal's next Olsen and Johnson comedy, "The Ghost Catchers," before the cameras. He also started preparation on another comedy for the team which will be an adaptation of the stage play, "See My Lawyer." The actors, whose stage production "Sons of Fun" is still running in Chicago, will produce a new comedy on Broadway between completion of "The Ghost Catchers" and the start of "See My Lawyer."

•

Producer John Auer will start "Cocktails for Two," at RKO-Radio on March 13. The picture stars Anne Shirley with Leon Errol and Dennis Day. . . . Republic chief, Herbert J. Yates, has changed the title of Candlelight in Lisbon," starring Vera Rhuba Ralston, to "Storm Over Lisbon." . . . Monogram's "Murder in the Fun House," one of the Charlie Chan series, is now titled "The Chinese Cat." . . . Pandro Berman's "The Picture of Dorian Gray" goes before the cameras Feb. 28 at M-G-M with Albert Lewin directing Hurd Hatfield, George Sanders and Angela Lansbury.

•

Hunt Stromberg has signed William Pereira to a production designer-co-producer contract. His first will be "Dishonored Lady" from the Broadway success. . . . Victor Moore, on loan from Paramount, will have a stellar spot in Arthur Freed's Technicolor musical "Ziegfeld Follies" starting soon at M-G-M with Lucille Ball in the star role. . . . In her first picture away from M-G-M since signed by that studio Hedy Lamarr will play opposite Paul Henreid in "The Conspirators" at Warners with Sydney Greenstreet in a strong supporting role. . . . RKO-Radio has borrowed Frank Partos from Paramount to script "Fiesta" which Leo McCarey is to produce with Bing Crosby starred. . . . Paramount has Mae Clark cast in "And Now Tomorrow" with Loretta Young and Alan Ladd. . . . Producer Edwin Knopf has changed the title of "The Outward Room" to "Secrets in the Dark."

•

Emil Epstein, Universal driver, and member of Studio Drivers Union (AFL), brought his Fourth War Loan bond sales up to $350,000 with the sale of a $25,000 bond. He has continuously sold bonds, as a free-lancer, since the start of the war. . . . Edward Small has signed Alan Dwan to direct "Abroad With Two Yanks," starring Dennis O'Keefe and William Bendix, for United Artists release. . . . Rose Stradner and Jane Ball have the feminine roles in "Keys of the Kingdom" at 20th Century-Fox.

•

Ary Baroso, Brazilian composer famous for his song, "Brazil," arrived to do the music for Republic's picture with that title. It is one of the highest budget pictures of the 1944-45 program at Republic and will be filmed in Technicolor, with Robert North producing. . . . Universal has signed Morton Downey for two songs in the next Olsen and Johnson comedy, now in production with Martha O'Driscoll in the feminine lead.

Four-City Rallies of Exhibitors for Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

cipal speakers at the Washington rally in the Statler Hotel before 500 persons representing 450 theatres. Speakers also included John J. Payette and Carter Barron, local exhibitor chairmen, and J. B. Brecheen, distributor chairman.

In Detroit, two meetings were held, one in the Fort Shelby Hotel with a theatre representation of 500, and the other at the Variety Club, with exchange personnel making up most of the attendance of more than 150. Ben Kalmenson, in a last-minute switch, was added over the weekend to the executives' unit which started its speaking tour in Detroit. Others of this group include E. L. Alperson and Ben Shlyen. The Detroit meeting also was addressed by Earl J. Hudson, local exhibitor chairman; M. Dudelson, distributor chairman, and two war heroes, Lt. J. P. Gilbert, field director for the Red Cross and veteran of South Pacific action, and Lt. Allen Simpson, winner of the Air Medal, Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Depinet, Brandt at Denver

The Denver rally had a representation of 300 theatres. Ned E. Depinet and Harry Brandt arrived there from New York to address the gathering with "Rick" Ricketson, local exhibitor chairman, and Tom Bailey, distributor chairman.

In New Haven, a gathering representing more than 250 theatres was addressed by Robert Mochrie, Francis S. Harmon and Harry M. Kalmine. Mochrie will also address meetings in Cleveland and Cincinnati next week.

Two meetings were added to the schedule over the weekend: Indianapolis, where the Kalmenson-Alperson-Shlyen unit will speak today, and Chicago to be covered by the same group tomorrow. Abe Montague, newly added to the list of touring speakers, will be in Boston today.

Carolinas Rally Set for Today

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 28.—Theatre owners of North and South Carolina will attend a rally at the Hotel Charlotte here tomorrow in conjunction with the launching of the 1944 Red Cross drive. The Charlotte Variety Club will sponsor the meeting.

Speakers for the occasion will be Joseph Bernhard, national chairman for the industry's drive; Robert Mochrie and Sam Dembow.

Roy L. Smart of Charlotte, WAC co-ordinator for the Carolinas, will preside. Variety Club committeemen in charge of arrangements include: Chief barker Lester C. Sipe, general chairman, and John A. Bachman, vice-chairman; H. H. Everett, George Roscoe, Rovy Branon, Scott Lett, Max Bryant, J. Schraeder, John Ward, Jack Austin, and H. L. Hardy.

Ban Midnight Shows

ASHLAND, O., Feb. 28.—City council here has prohibited midnight shows as a result of pressure by the Ashland Ministerial Association, which alleged that young people were subjected to "demoralizing influences" in attending late shows. Ordinance, which will become effective in 30 days, provides for a $300 fine for violations, with each show a separate offense. Isadore Bier, Schine city manager, has protested.

At Showmanship Awards Luncheon



Staff Photo

Among those at the speakers' table at the luncheon which followed the judging yesterday of campaigns entered in the 10th annual Quigley Showmanship Awards and the second annual War Showmanship Award, were, from left to right: Joseph R. Vogel, Martin Quigley, Arthur Mayer, Malcolm Kingsberg.

Legion Rates 10, All Are Acceptable

Legion of Decency rated 10 films here this week, none of which were objectionable. Accorded ratings of Class A-1 for general patronage were: "Action in Arabia," RKO; "My Best Girl," Republic; "See Here, Private Hargrove," M-G-M; "Thundering Gun Slingers," PRC.

In Class A-2, unobjectionable for adults were: "The Lady and the Monster," Republic; "Million Dollar Kid," Monogram; "Nine Girls," Columbia; "Rosie the Riveter," Republic; "Up in Arms," RKO, and "The Voodoo Man," Monogram.

Cohen Aiding Red Cross

Charles Cohen, feature publicity writer for 20th Century-Fox here, has been loaned by Hal Horne, 20th's advertising-publicity director, to the War Activities Committee's Red Cross campaign committee to handle trade press relations on the WAC drive staff of Charles Smakwitz.

Press Book Ready For Theatre Drive

A War Activities Committee press book for the industry's Red Cross Drive, March 23-29, is being mailed to all theatres. The book was prepared by Harry Goldberg, campaign manager, and Charles A. Smakwitz, publicity director for the drive, with aid of Sid Rechetnik, Joe Tisman and Jess Gourley of Warner Bros. under supervision of Mort Blumenstock. Gil Golden did the cover.

It is a three-color job, 11x17 inches, with 12 pages, and includes President Roosevelt's proclamation, description of the free kits available to theatres, photographs of National Screen Service accessories, mats, stories, contests, quotations from Army and Navy heads, publicity and exploitation material, Red Cross assisting posters and other aids.

Honor Skouras at Coast Lunch Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

Marco Wolff, Robert Poole, president of the Independent Theatre Owners of Southern California; D. D. Durr, president of the Newspapers Association in Southern California; R. H. Molton of the War Finance Department; Mayor Fletcher Bowron and Rabbi Edgar Magnin.

Others on the dais will be: Darryl F. Zanuck, William Goetz, Leo Spitz, Charles W. Koerner, N. Peter Rathvon, Samuel Goldwyn, Sam Katz, Henry Ginsberg, Lou Anger, Hunt Stromberg, U. S. District Attorney Charles Carr and Joseph Rosenberg, vice-president of the Bank of America.

Sherill Corwin and Bill Srore are chairmen of the arrangement committee, assisted by Dave Bershon, Henry Pines, Ben Wallenstein, Rodney Pantages, Jack Berman, Al Galston, Gus Metzger, Wayne Ball, Anger, Wolff and Poole.

Graetz Made Ealing U. S. Representative

(*Continued from page* 1)

will be "San Demetrio - London," dramatization of the "suicide" of the Port Jervis in blocking the Scharnhorst from action against a British convoy, to be followed by "Went the Day Well," a story of a supposed invasion of England by the Nazis; "Nine Men," which details the adventures of soldiers stranded in the Libyan desert; "Half-Way House," adapted from Dennis Ogden's play, "The Peaceful Inn," and "Johnny Frenchman," starring Francoise Rosay.

Sturdivant Named

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—B. V. Sturdivant, northern California division chief of Fox-West Coast Theatres, has been named to the national budget and quota committee of the National War Fund. Sturdivant is also vice-president of the California War Chest.

Cite Value of Showmen's Annual Awards

(*Continued from page* 1)

those who have displayed their interest in theatre operation by repeatedly participating in the Showmanship Awards competition. He expressed the hope that reduced paper supplies would not lead to the suspension of *Motion Picture Herald's* Managers Round Table section, which sponsors the annual contest.

Martin Quigley, president of Quigley Publications, stated that the annual awards "have accomplished certain definite and desirable results."

"The undertaking has heightened interest and increased activity in this vital function of promoting and exploiting pictures at the theatres," Quigley said. "It also has contributed a useful service in bringing recognition to persons in that work who have successfully and industriously applied themselves."

Second Annual War Award

The judging yesterday also embraced the second annual competition for the War Showmanship Award, presented to the theatre campaign adjudged to be the best on a theatre war endeavor.

Arthur Mayer, operator of the Times Square Rialto Theatre and now on special service with the War Department, also spoke.

Those who attended, in addition to those mentioneed, were: Mort Blumenstock, Jack Cohn, Bernard Kreisler, George Dembow, Oscar Doob, Russell Emde, Thomas Gerrity, Lt. (j. g.) Douglas George, Harry Goldberg, Lou Goldberg, Leonard Goldenson, Ben Grimm, Charles Reed Jones, Don Jacocks, Malcolm Kinsberg, Paul Lazarus, Jr., Henry Linet, Lawrence Lipskin, Irving Lesser, Leon Bamberger, S. Barret McCormick, Frank McCarthy, Charles MacDonald, Harry Mandel, Arthur Mayer, A. Montague, Charles C. Moscowitz, Lou Pollock, Lou Preston, Maurice Maurer, Henderson Richey, Herman Robbins, Frank Rosenberg, William R. Ferguson.

Also: Charles Schlaifer, Gradwell Sears, Charles Smakwitz, Joseph Springer, Arnold Stoltz, Vincent Trotta, William White, Phil Williams, Gus Eyssell, Colvin Brown, Sherwin Kane, James Cunningham, James Ivers, Herbert Fecke, Chester Friedman, Rav Gallagher, Ray Gallo, Gertrude Merriam, Martin Quigley, Terry Ramsave, George Schutz, Floyd Stone and Theodore Sullivan.

New Skouras Air Program on WINS

Skouras Theatres' war effort department will present a new radio program over station WINS starting tomorrow. Called "You Judge the News," it will consist of background news analysis and a family radio news forum, with Foster Williams as moderator and Nick John Matsoukas of Skouras producing.

The program will be presented every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m.

7,000 Office WorkersUnder Wing of AFL

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the majors in 31 cities, now affiliated with the IATSE; and 600 members of the Motion Picture Office Employes Union, Local 23,169, comprising "white collarites" employed in the Warner home office and by subsidiaries here. MPOE will absorb 150 Universal home office workers on April 1. Universal "white collarites" have been members of Local 20,940 of the American Federation of Office Employes.

IATSE officials are understood to oppose any such absorption of the 3,000 exchange office workers now under their jurisdiction. However, Richard Walsh, IATSE international president, disclosed that if AFL officials decided that these workers must join the new international, the decision would be complied with.

Should the IATSE finally retain these workers, it is expected that the MPOE would then press for an IATSE affiliation rather than join the new international with the idea of keeping all film industry office workers within the jurisdiction of one international. What action SOEG would take in this respect is not known since it has resisted attempts by IATSE to obtain jurisdiction over the local, nor is it known what action the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers would take about releasing its office workers' local to join either the new international or the IATSE.

The CIO's Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, Local 109, has some 3,000 office-worker members, employed in the New York offices of eight film companies and five New York film exchanges. The eight are: Loew's, Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, RKO-Radio, United Artists, Columbia, Republic and National Screen Service. The exchanges are those of Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, Columbia and National Screen.

Reserves Decision on Extortionists' Bail

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals here yesterday reserved decision on a motion by former Judge John E. Mack to admit to bail, pending appeal, the six Chicago gangsters convicted in the $1,000,000 film industry extortion case.

Judge Learned Hand, presiding judge of the three-man court, indicated that the court will consider the arguments of Judge Mack, but that no bail for the six defendants will be set.

Mabon Joins M-G-M

John Scott Mabon, director of the Atlantic Monthly Press, has resigned to join the M-G-M home office, to take charge of the company's "annual book award."

Stanley Changes Policy

The Stanley Theatre here, Noel Meadow, operator, will present films in Russian, French, Dutch, Belgian, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and captured German pictures.

Review

"No Greater Love"

(*Artkino*)

"NO GREATER LOVE," produced and directed in Russia by Frederick Ermler, is an account of Russia at war which marks a definite milestone in Russian production. Made under difficult conditions, the picture emerges as a powerful box office draw, both for its emotional appeal and documentary value. One of the first Russian productions to be dubbed in English, it was chosen to pave the way for more widespread distribution of Soviet pictures here. It can do the job well.

The story, simply told and splendidly acted, centers around Vera Maretskaya, who loses her husband and baby in the first days of the Nazi blitz. She returns to the people of her village and bids them to stop retreating, to stay on and fight. Her courageous leadership of the villagers, who first fight with crude weapons and bare hands, then with captured Nazi artillery, is the core of the film. The theme is paralleled, in subdued fashion, by the appealing love story of two young patriots, Anna Smirnova and Peter Aleinikov.

Ermler's sensitive direction, flanked by G. Popov's moving music score, mould an all-round fine production. Credit for dubbing and the few deviations from the original goes to I. E. Lopert, W. A. Pozner, William C. White, Alexander Bakshy and I. Elman.

Running time, 75 mins. "G."* Release date, March 3.

HELEN MCNAMARA

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Lady' Hits $131,000 Here;WeekendSnow Cuts Grosses 20%

(*Continued from page* 1)

third week with a take of about $64,000 and will enter its fourth and final week tomorrow.

"The Purple Heart" is set to follow "The Sullivans" on March 8. The Capitol will finish its third and final week of "Song of Russia" and a sepia stage show with $55,000. United Artists' "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" and a stage show headed by Will Osborne and his orchestra and Larry Adler will take over Thursday. Third week of "In Our Time" and a stage show presenting Ina Ray Hutton and band and the Three Stooges at the Strand will do about $43,000 and will continue.

Initial week of Paramount's "Standing Room Only" at the Criterion, ending last night, was quoted at $40,000 and the picture will hold. "Passage to Marseille" is headed for $33,000 for a second week at the Hollywood after a record breaking $53,000 the first week. The picture will hold over.

'Bernadette' Does $46,000

"The Song of Bernadette" is expected to gross $46,000 in its fifth week at the Rivoli and will continue. "The Uninvited" surpassed original estimates to gross almost $30,000 in its first week and will do $25,000 in its second week at the Globe. It will hold over. Decisions made after Washington's Birthday holiday business last week kept "Action in Arabia" at the Palace for a second week which should yield about $14,000 for six days. The Rialto held "Calling Dr. Death" for a third week instead of bringing in "The Curse of the Cat People" as previously planned. Third week of "Death" is estimated at $6,500. "Cat People" will open on Friday. The Soviet's "No Greater Love" will do about $14,500 in its first week at the New Victoria and will hold over. The seventh week of "Lifeboat" at the Astor will register $18,000 and will hold.

Free French Will Restore Industry

(*Continued from page* 1)

films, mostly with sub-titles, was comparatively limited before the fall of Paris, numerically they were one of the leaders of foreign-language films here, principally at "art theatres" and in road showings.

Jean Renoir, Julien Duvivier, Charles Boyer and several other French stars now in Hollywood have indicated a desire to return to France to assist in the reestablishment of the French industry, Dr. Schiffrin disclosed. Plans for the production of a feature with an all French cast, in Cairo, is contemplated, he said, for immediate showing to the liberated French when the Allies take over.

Shorts Distributed

Dr. Schiffrin, who produced "Port of Shadows," "The Living Corpse" and 35 other features in France, and who has headed the French film division in New York since its inception in November, 1942, has edited 19 short subjects on the Free French movement in all parts of the world. The films, which are narrated in both English and French, are being distributed to universities, high schools and other institutions, in both 16 and 35mm. Five hundred prints of each subject have been made for the United States alone, Schriffrin continued. It is understood that prints are also being delivered to the underground movement in France.

Schiffrin is also the United States representative for distributors in Martinique, Dakar, Madagascar, Guadaloupe and other Free French colonies and said that he has concluded deals for 50 U. S. pictures, bought outright or on a percentage basis from Universal, RKO and Columbia. They are released in those territories with French sub-titles. Negotiations are now in progress with M-G-M, 20th-Fox, Paramount and United Artists for films of those companies. Selections are subject to approval by the overseas bureau of the films division of the U. S. Office of War Information, he concluded.

Company Heads Will Meet Studio Unions On Three New Pacts

(*Continued from page* 1)

unions through a board of trustees for distribution among workers. The producers would be represented in the disbursements of the fund through a four-man "advisory committee." The estimated annual cost of this fund would run to $2,340,000.

In addition, each IATSE union will demand a 15 per cent wage increase as well as 14 days annual vacation with pay for all members working 1,600 hours during the year and seven days' vacation for each member working 800 hours. Sick leave with pay of 12 days annually, cumulative during the life of the contract, is also a part of the demands. Proposal is that the contract run for five years.

CSU to Ask Benefits

The Conference of Studio Unions will ask vacations with pay, sick leave with pay adjustments in some job classifications calling for an upward revision of wages in those classifications and a 10 per cent wage differential for night shift workers. In addition they will seek a minimum six-day work call in place of the six-hour work call now in effect.

Herbert Sorrell, president of the Conference and the studio painters' local; T. D. Wayne, representative of the machinists and George Bradley of the building service employes are expected here for the negotiations.

The Motion Picture Editors Guild wants vacations with pay, sick leave, severance allowances graduated upwards from a week's pay for employes with one year's service and wage increases.

No Wage Rise Sought

The studio basic agreement group, with a membership of about 7,000 in the seven AFL international unions involved, does not plan to seek any wage increase at the present time but is said to be watching developments on attempts to upset the "Little Steel Formula." AFL unions in the basic agreement are those of the drivers, electricians, musicians, plasterers, laborers, carpenters and culinary workers.

Studio labor relations heads will come here from Hollywood conferences as well as committees representing the unions. Fred S. Meyer of 20th Century-Fox and William R. Walsh, M-G-M labor relations head and Fred Gabourie, M-G-M superintendent of construction, will take part in the negotiations for their companies.

$52,000 for 'Lady'

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28.—A late spurt carried Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" to approximately $52,000 for its second week of a day and date run at Paramount's Hollywood and Downtown here. With combined average for the two houses set at $32,152, almost $20,000 over par was grossed by the picture at both places.

Stewart to Meet Press

Col. Hugh Stewart, co-producer with Col. Frank Capra of "Tunisian Victory," will be host to the trade press at an interview tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. in his suite at the New Weston Hotel here.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 42 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1944 TEN CENTS

See New Deal For Films in New Treaties

New Trade Pacts Would Replace Nullifications

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Post-war revision of reciprocal trade agreements with Latin America and the writing of new trade treaties with the reconstituted European countries may involve a "new deal" for American film companies operating abroad, it was indicated in informed circles here today.

The temporary eclipse of many free markets and restriction of international trade to essential commodities have largely nullified the many trade agreements entered into by this Government during the 'Thirties', while changed industrial and economic conditions resulting from the war are seen

(*Continued on page 5*)

H. J. Yates Names Johnston Press Head

John LeRoy Johnston will become national public relations director of Republic Pictures on March 6, with headquarters on the Coast. The appointment in Hollywood by Herbert J. Yates, Sr., was announced from the home office here yesterday.

Johnston has been in all branches of film publicity, advertising and exploitation for 33 years, first with Southern and Midwest circuits, then, starting in 1921, in Hollywood, with Paramount, Frank Lloyd, Mack Sennett, Columbia, Edwin Carewe, Universal, Walter Wanger, Hunt Stromberg, First National, and, for the past five months, with Frank Ross.

PCCITO Meets Today On Trade Problems

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 29.—Board of trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will meet here Wednesday through Friday at the Ambassador Hotel, to discuss unfair trade practices and the consent decree. Also on the agenda are the increased admission tax and the effect of manpower rulings on personnel.

Hugh Bruen and Rotus Harvey, trustees, and Robert H. Poole, executive secretary, will report on the recent Chicago and Washington exhibitor decree conferences.

Industry Tops Goal By 500,000 Bonds, Skouras Announces

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 29.—The industry sold over 12,000,000 "E" bonds in the recent Fourth War Loan Drive, exceeding by 500,000 the "Bond for Every Seat" quota, national chairman Charles P. Skouras announced today. The maturity value of the bonds will exceed $2,000,000,000 he said.

The announcement, greeted by telegrams of congratulations from Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., California's Governor Earl Warren and Ted Gamble, U. S. Treasury war finance division chairman, was made at a testimonial luncheon given Skouras at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel by the local Variety Club, of which he is chief barker.

"The credit cannot be given to me or any member of the national committee," the chairman said. "It be-

(*Continued on page 9*)

Galperson Planning Coast Talent Bids

Dr. Alexander Galperson, distribution representative of Two Cities Films, Ltd., London, who is scheduled to return to London this week, plans a second visit here in May to seek American talent to work in Two Cities films in England.

Dr. Galperson arrived here from London last December to try to arrange for American distribution of Two Cities' product. J. Arthur Rank's

(*Continued on page 9*)

Producers Agree to 7% Raise for SOEG

Los Angeles, Feb. 29.—The studios have agreed to request War Labor Board approval for a seven percent wage increase for members of the Screen Office Employes Guild employed in all studios except Warner Bros., Paramount and 20th Century-Fox where the employes have their own unions.

The new seven percent raise would be retroactive to Jan. 15.

Depinet, Montague, Brandt, Harmon at Red Cross Rallies

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 29.—Beginning with the Red Cross Drive, March 23-29, each film salesman, working under the new alignment of the War Activities Committee's distributors division, will be responsible for the coverage of 10 theatres in his area, Ned Depinet, chairman of the division, explained to 300 showmen from Utah, Montana and Idaho at a Red Cross mass meeting in the Utah Hotel here today.

Harry Brandt, field chairman for the campaign, who came here with Depinet from yesterday's meeting in Denver, said he had found Western exhibitors working with enthusiasm

(*Continued on page 8*)

78,808, 40% of Industry Pre-war Staffs, in Service

Forty percent, or some 78,808 of the industry's pre-war personnel of approximately 200,000 workers in all branches, are in the armed forces, the War Activities Committee disclosed yesterday in its second annual report.

"Despite this sizeable depletion in its ranks, the industry continues to supply entertainment films to the free world and conduct a varied program of war activities at home, these war services constituting a dual role played directly or indirectly by every man and woman engaged in the production, distribution, exhibition and exploitation of films," the report added.

During the year covered by the report, exhibitors' national collections in

(*Continued on page 9*)

Atlas Will Elect, Retire Stock April 5

Floyd B. Odlum's Atlas Corp., which controls 46 percent of the voting stock of RKO, and has other film interests, has called its annual stockholders' meeting for April 5, at Wilmington, at which five directors will be elected and a vote taken for the retirement of 44,567 shares of Atlas common, par value $222,835.

Directorial nominees constitute the present board: Odlum and L. Boyd Hatch of Atlas; Harry M. Durning, U. S. Collector of Customs, New York; Oswald L. Johnson, partner of Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett, and Samuel Zemurray, president of United Fruit.

20th-Fox, GE Television Tie Is Possibility

GE Officials Confer With 20th on Postwar Link

By JACK BERK

Possibilities of a postwar alliance on television between 20th Century-Fox and General Electric are seen in current discussions between officials of both companies, the existence of which came to light here yesterday.

It was admitted by high officials of 20th-Fox that conferences have been held with Gerard Swope, president of GE, and Dr. W. R. G. Baker, head of GE's Electronics Division, covering many phases of a possible collaboration.

It was learned also that the subject of post-war supply of GE theatre television equipment for selected theatres affiliated with 20th-Fox is being explored.

Twentieth-Fox officials, it is under-

(*Continued on page 9*)

St. Louis Theatres Seek Uniform Prices

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 29.—While St. Louis theatres have not yet reached a decision on price increases made necessary by the new Federal tax law, effective April 1, it is expected that uniform prices will be adopted. A meeting of first-run operators resulted in a tentative price scale of 40c-50c-60c. Present prices are 30c-40c-50c, while Loew's State and Loew's Orpheum have a Saturday and Sunday top of 55c.

Final decision of first-runs awaits

(*Continued on page 9*)

Film Ad Space Is Cut in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Feb. 29.—Memphis Publishing Co., a Scripps-Howard subsidiary publishing *The Commercial Appeal* and the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, has budgeted its motion picture and all other advertising to 62 percent of the lineage allowed in 1942.

The *Appeal* has for years handled a large amount of film advertising, due to its having discontinued high "amusements rates" years ago and also because of its wide Southern circulation.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, Feb. 29

THE Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that the stage show to accompany the awards presentation at the Chinese Theatre Thursday night will feature Red Skelton, Kay Kyser, Mitzi Mayfair, Lena Horne, Ray Bolger, Betty Hutton, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy.

•

Stanton Griffis, Paramount executive committee chairman, is here for two weeks of conferences with vice-president Y. Frank Freeman and John C. Flinn, executive secretary of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers.

•

William F. Rodgers, M-G-M general sales manager, and Edwin W. Aaron, his assistant, arrived here last night for a week of studio conferences prior to leaving for the Chicago sales conference March 11-14.

•

Robert Gillham, Paramount director of publicity and advertising, has left for New York, as has Louis B. Mayer, M-G-M vice-president in charge of production.

•

Jules Levey left last night for a week's rest in Palm Springs after completing "The Hairy Ape," which will be released by United Artists.

•

Warners have signed Rosalind Russell to a term contract and will star her in "Roughly Speaking," with Henry Blanke producing.

•

Sydney Towell, 20th-Fox treasurer, has arrived here and will remain 10 days.

•

Charles Boren, Paramount studio manager, left today for union negotiations in New York.

•

Maureen O'Hara has been given a term contract by 20th-Fox. It permits one outside picture annually.

•

Fred Pelton, studio labor representative, left here today for forthcoming union negotiations in New York.

Dinner for Rosen on Leaving Loew's Here

Loew's State and other Broadway theatre colleagues of Al Rosen will honor him at a dinner here Friday night at Toots Shor's, prior to his departure March 10 for California where he will enter another business. His resignation as manager of the State is effective today.

In charge of arrangements for the affair are Jesse Kaye, Robert Weitman, Edward Smith, Abe Feinberg, Myles Ingalls, Larry Puck and John Dugan.

Dority to Altec

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 29.—Harry E. Dority has succeeded Fred Pfeiffer, now in the Army, as Altec Service representative in this territory.

Personal Mention

PAT CASEY, producers' labor representative, arrived in New York yesterday from Hollywood.

•

WILLIAM SCHOLL, former advertising-publicity director for the Fox Theatre, Detroit, now a lieutenant (j.g.) in the Navy, has married PEARL MONSKY of Omaha.

•

WILLIAM KELLY, formerly orchestra contractor at the New York Roxy, on leave of absence, has been promoted to captain in the Army Air Corps at Mitchell Field, L. I.

•

KAY SULLIVAN, executive secretary to JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ, New York representative of the 20th Century-Fox studio, is back at her desk following a six weeks' illness.

•

WILLIAM K. HOLLANDER, advertising-publicity director for Balaban & Katz, Chicago, will leave Friday for a three-week vacation at Lake Arrowhead, Cal.

•

LT. GERALD SKIBBINS, formerly of M-G-M's Chicago exchange, is in New York before returning home following a year overseas as a combat flier.

•

GWYN BARNES, San Antonio State Theatre, and WELDON PARSONS of the Majestic there have entered the Marines and Army Air Force, respectively.

•

VOLDEMAR VETLUGUIN, who is in charge of M-G-M's 'book award' staff, will leave for the Coast March 10, after several weeks in New York.

•

MOE SILVER, Warner theatre manager in Pittsburgh, returned to that city last night after a week in New York.

•

THOMAS MALLER, manager of the Lyric in Hartford, is in New York visiting his family.

•

ED SCHREIBER, WAC publicity head, was in Washington yesterday.

STEVE BROIDY, Monogram general sales manager, left here yesterday for Chicago, where he will stay a few days before leaving for Hollywood.

•

MURIEL BABCOCK, editorial director of the Ideal Women's Group, has left New York for several weeks in Hollywood.

•

JOSEPH WALSH, of the New Theatre, Newington, Conn., and MRS. WALSH recently observed their 27th wedding anniversary.

•

HARRY OLSHAN, Columbia salesman, New Haven, and MRS. OLSHAN recently observed their 28th wedding anniversary.

•

HARRY H. THOMAS, Monogram's Eastern division manager, has left New York for a three-week trip to the Midwest and Canada.

•

GRACE RICCITELLO, 20th-Fox New Haven booker, was recently married there to PVT. RALPH DE LUCIA.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M Eastern sales manager, will return here tomorrow from the South.

•

I. J. HOFFMAN, Warner New Haven theatre zone head, is vacationing at Palm Beach, Fla.

•

CHARLES ZAGRENS, RKO Philadelphia branch manager, has returned from Florida.

•

HENRY LINET, Universal Eastern advertising head, was confined to his home with a cold yesterday.

•

JOE ROSSHEIM, owner of the Midway, Allentown, and the Lehigh, Bethlehem, Pa., has returned from Florida.

•

CLYDE ECKHARDT, 20th-Fox Los Angeles branch manager, will return to that city from Chicago today.

•

DAVID BLUM, publicity director of M-G-M's international department, is now in Hollywood on vacation.

Postpone New RKO SLRB Union Hearing

Hearings before the New York State Labor Relations Board between RKO Theatres and the new Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers, Assistants and Cashiers Guild here, scheduled for yesterday, were postponed until March 13 by mutual consent.

The union is seeking certification as collective bargaining agent for all metropolitan RKO managers, assistants and cashiers.

Warner to Host Press

Warner will hold a reception for the trade press, and Broadway columnists, news and magazine writers in conjunction with its forthcoming "Shine On, Harvest Moon" feature, on Tuesday, March 7, at the Murray Hill Hotel here, at 4:30 p.m.

Quinn Quits M-G-M; Sinclair Promoted

John X. Quinn, now recovering from illness, has resigned as M-G-M's St. Louis branch manager, and J. F. Willingham has been named acting manager, according to a company announcement here.

Mrs. Amy Sinclair, secretary to the company's Kansas City branch manager, has been promoted to office manager there, replacing Charles W. Aaron, who recently entered the Army.

Johnston to Canada

W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, left here this morning by plane for Toronto, where he will be guest at a dinner tonight to be given by Oscar Hanson, Monogram president in Canada. "Lady, Let's Dance" will be previewed.

Coming Events

March 2—Academy Awards, Chinese Theatre, Hollywood.
March 5—Ascap and American Theatre Wing tribute to Lorenz Hart, Majestic Theatre, New York.
March 7—Century Circuit "million dollar" war-bond dinner, Garden City Hotel, Garden City, L. I.
March 8 — Universal stockholders' meeting and board election, Wilmington, Del.
March 11-15 — M-G-M sales-and-war conference, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago.
March 13 — Rally for Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People of Europe, Madison Square Garden, New York.
March 23-29—Motion picture theatres' Red Cross campaign.
April 3 — Universal board meeting and election of officers, New York.
April 5—Atlas Corp. annual stockholders meeting, Wilmington, Del.

WB to Set Ad Drive On 'Twain' Monday

Warners' field and home office publicity and theatre advertising men will meet here on Monday to map the campaign for "The Adventures of Mark Twain," Mort Blumenstock, in charge of Eastern advertising-publicity, announced here yesterday.

Distribution field men who are expected to attend are: Ted Tod and Lucia Perrigo, Chicago; Bill Brumberg, Cincinnati; Herbert S. Pickman, Atlanta; Frank Bruner, Dallas; Glenn Ireton, Toronto; Don Walker, Kansas City; Jack Leewood, Denver; Carl Post, St. Louis; Art Moger, Boston, and Robert Harris, assistant to Brumberg in the Central territory.

Also, Harry Goldberg, theatre advertising-publicity director, has called in J. Knox Strachan, Cleveland; Dan Finn, New Haven; Robert Paskow, Newark; Irving Blumberg, Philadelphia; James Totman, Pittsburgh; Frank LaFalce, Washington; Marcel Brazee, Milwaukee, and Charles Smakwitz, Albany.

In addition to talks by Blumenstock and Goldberg, Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Theatres; Harry M. Kalmine, assistant general theatre manager, and Jesse L. Lasky, the film's producer, will speak. Blumenstock, Ben Kalmenson, sales manager, and Samuel Schneider will leave for studio conferences March 10.

Press to Meet Barclay

USO-Camp Shows, Inc., will present Don Barclay, film player, recently returned from a 40,000-mile tour of Africa, India and China, to the press for interviews today in the Army-Navy press room at 90 Church St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.


MADAME CURIE
A BIOGRAPHY BY EVE C

M-G-M's AWARD PICTURE



SPECIAL SECTION MOVIE OF THE WEEK



PARENTS' MAGAZINE MEDAL

REPEATING NATIONWIDE THE SUCCESS OF ITS 7 WEEK SENSATIONAL WORLD PREMIERE AT THE MUSIC HALL



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

GREER GARSON
WALTER PIDGEON
MADAME CURIE

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL



NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW EXCEPTIONAL PHOTOPLAY

Directed by
MERVYN LeROY

Produced by
SIDNEY FRANKLIN



COVER AND SPECIAL ARTICLE



SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINE EDITOR'S BLUE RIBBON

HENRY TRAVERS • ALBERT BASSERMAN
ROBERT WALKER • C. AUBREY SMITH
DAME MAY WHITTY • VICTOR FRANCEN
ELSA BASSERMAN • REGINALD OWEN
VAN JOHNSON • MARGARET O'BRIEN

Screen Play by Paul Osborn and Paul H. Rameau
Based on the Book "Madame Curie" by Eve Curie



AND THE GREATEST AWARD IS AT THE BOX-OFFICE!

"Calling All Patriotic Showmen! Red Cross Drive March 23rd Through 29th"

See New Deal For Films in New Treaties

(Continued from page 1)

as necessitating a realignment of world tariff barriers.

When the agreements are rewritten, the policy line to be followed will depend upon the administration then in power as a result of next November's elections, but regardless of the political aspects it is anticipated that strong representations will be made in the negotiation of new or revised agreements on the desirability of fair treatment of American films.

In the development of the agreements now in force, the State Department went as far as it could in protecting motion pictures but in many countries little headway was made because of nationalistic aspirations which were being furthered by the use of native films.

The act under which trade agreements are negotiated was extended last year to 1946 and so may cover the period of establishment of post-war Europe.

Seeks CIAA Extension To Other Countries

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—President Roosevelt today asked Congress to authorize the appointment of two additional Assistant Secretaries of State to handle complex new problems of a "delicate and unprecedented character" relating to foreign relations and urged enactment of legislation proposed by the State Department to extend to other countries cultural and cooperative programs such as are in force in Latin America.

The legislation contemplates the setting up in the Department of an agency to administer such programs, both with reference to this country's purposes during the war and its policies for the subsequent peace.

The purpose of the legislation, the President said, is to promote the development of "mutual understanding and cooperation" between the United States and the rest of the world, based on the pattern of western hemisphere solidarity. In the latter, the American motion picture plays a prominent part in the program of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

Stoddard Theatre Sold

Frederick Brown, real estate operator, has acquired from the Unum Real Estate Corp. the Stoddard Theatre building at Broadway and 90th St. here. The property is under lease to a subsidiary of the Skouras Theatre Corp.

John W. Luce Dies

BOSTON, Feb. 28.—John W. Luce, 73, theatrical publicity man and representative of the Shubert theatre interests here, died this week at the Boston City Hospital after a brief illness.

Lt. Lieberman Dies

CLEVELAND, Feb. 29.—Lt. Earle M. Lieberman, 22, formerly with the Columbia exchange here, died recently in a plane crash at Phoenix, Arizona, while on maneuvers. Lieberman enlisted in the Air Corps 18 months ago.

Review

"Voice in the Wind"

(Ripley-Monter—United Artists)

THAT which impresses most in the Rudolph Monter-Arthur Ripley production of "Voice in the Wind" is its predominating melancholy psychological imprint arising from the reactions of some who have left the brutal heel of Hitler and who have flown to a refugee haven with painful and indelible marks on mind and body. This, of course, makes its commercial suitability for general patronage questionable, as witness the uneasiness of a so-called "typical" defense-town audience attending the "world premiere" the other night at the Lyric Theatre at Camden, N. J. There was much tittering during serious sequences which, ordinarily, should have brought sympathetic reception had the producers captured a true mood. For the marquee there are the names of Francis Lederer, Sigrid Gurie, J. Edward Bromberg and J. Carroll Naish; actually, they could do but little to bolster the weak story.

To those who would sit patiently through the concert solo of a pianist, the picture has some values, for in several places there have been injected the slow-moving renditions on a concert grand. Ripley directed from his original and a screen treatment of it by Frederick Torberg. Most of the action, what there is of it, transpires on the island of Guadaupe, refugee haven to where Sigrid Gurie, Lederer's fiancee, had flown from the Nazis and their native Prague, and where Lederer, crazed from Nazi beatings, later arrives. The separation meanwhile has made her dangerously ill and she dies before the shooting of Lederer restores his sanity. He finds her dead and dies, too.

Running time, 85 mins. "G."* Release date, March 10.

JAMES CUNNINGHAM

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Desert Song' Nets $14,800 in Toronto

TORONTO, Feb. 29.—"Desert Song" was shaping up as a $14,800 hit at Shea's and "Lost Angel" at Loew's looked good for $12,700 against holdovers elsewhere, chief of which was the third week of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" at the Uptown, which was counting on $9,300.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 2:

"Went the Day Well" (Ealing-British)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $4,000).

"What a Woman" (Col.)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,300. (Average: $12,800).

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $12,700. (Average: $11,200).

"Desert Song" (WB)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $12,800).

"Riding High" (Para.) (moveover)
"Tornado" (Para.)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $3,900. (Average: $4,400).

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,300. (Average: $9,800).

Postage Increases Effective March 26

Increases in domestic postal rates provided for in the new Federal tax bill will go into effect on March 26 throughout the country, five days before the rise in theatre admission taxes goes into effect on April 1.

Postage will be three cents for each ounce in place of the present rate of two cents. Domestic airmail postage will rise to eight cents an ounce in place of the present six cents.

McCabe Back at 20th

Thomas McCabe, honorably discharged from the Army, has returned to 20th Century-Fox's home office advertising-publicity department. He is temporarily working in the trade relations department with Dave Bader.

O'Donnell Reports $207,554 for 'Dimes'

DALLAS, Feb. 29.—R. J. O'Donnell, co-chairman with Julius Gordon of the Texas theatre division of the March of Dimes drive, reports $207,554 collected in theatres in that state. Participating were theatres of Interstate, Texas Consolidated, R. E. Griffith, Jefferson Amusement, Robb and Rowley, United Theatres, J. A. Long and a large number of independents.

$77,000 in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 29.—March of Dimes' 1944 theatre campaign in this state has brought $77,000 to date, with only 150 theatres reporting, I. J. Hoffman, state chairman, reveals here.

More Stars to Appear In 'Show of Shows'

Additional stars who will appear at the "Show of Shows" on March 13 in Madison Square Garden, under auspices of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, are Bob Hope, Jimmy Durante, Paul Robeson, Ted Lewis and band, Count Basie and orchestra, Hazel Scott, Carol Bruce, Ruth Gordon, Gertrude Lawrence, Oscar Levant and the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes.

Comerford Dads Go

SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 29.—The father draft has claimed Al Farrell, Comerford Theatres assistant district manager in the Binghamton, N. Y., area, and Bill Andres of the Comerford candy department. Farrell, who has two sons, has been inducted into the Army, and Andres, father of one boy, will report for duty with the Marines.

WB Has War Short

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 29.—"Our Italian Frontier," comprising footage from the Mediterranean war theatre, is being prepared for general release by Warner Bros. as a two-reeler. Dan Clark will do the commentary.

'Bernadette' Leads Phila., Gets $26,000

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 29.—Business continues big here. Leading are "Song of Bernadette" at the Aldine, pointing to a $26,500 week, and "In Our Time" at the Mastbaum, where $35,000 is in sight. Holdovers are also big, "Jane Eyre" giving the Boyd $24,500 for its second week and "Where Are Your Children?", at the Stanton, pointing to $10,500 for its second week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 1-3:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
ALDINE—(900) (75c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $14,600).

"Riding High" (Para.)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $4,000).

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $18,000).

"Rookies in Burma" (RKO) (6 days)
"Higher and Higher" (RKO) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) Six days of vaudeville including the Latin Quarter Revue with Dave Apollon, Bobby May, Harris, Claire & Shannon, Arnaut Bros., Billy Wells and The Four Fays, The Fontaines and June Gruwell. Gross: $25,400. (Average: $27,800).

"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $21,400. (Average: $20,500).

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 5 days, 2nd run, 2nd week. Gross: $4,250. (Average: $6,600).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $8,800. (Average: $5,800).

"In Our Time" (WB)
MASTBAUM — (4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $22,500).

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
STANLEY — (3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,200. (Average: $20,000).

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
STANTON — (1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $9,400).

No Film Ad Space Cuts in Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 29.—Contrary to reports of cuts to be made in motion picture advertising space in local papers, the Nashville *Banner* and *Tennesseean* will retain all film theatre ads, although other display advertising has been cut from both papers for Saturday publication.

Crescent Amusement's house publication, *Good News Weekly*, carries most of the advertising for that organization's suburban houses.

Griffith Depositions Will Start Tomorrow

First depositions to be taken here from officers of the eight major distributors in the Government's anti-trust suit against the Griffith Amusement Co. were postponed yesterday until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Albert Boggess, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, disclosed that the first four companies to give evidence will be Paramount, 20th-Fox, Warners and United Artists.

Blumenfeld, Lissauer Aid

CLEVELAND, Feb. 29.—L. F. Blumenfeld, who resigned as office manager of the RKO exchange here, is associated with the William Skirball Circuit as assistant to Joe Lissauer.


Republic Pictures presents.....
JOE E. BROWN
in

The funniest picture of the year!

CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE



with

JUNE HAVOC • DALE EVANS

and

MARJORIE GATESON • LUCIEN LITTLEFIELD
IAN KEITH • ROGER IMHOF

Leslie Goodwins, Director

Original Screenplay by Frank Gill, Jr.

Based on a Story Idea by John Wales

A VICTORY PRODUCTION

Depinet, Montague, Brandt, Harmon at Red Cross Rallies

(Continued from page 1)

for the drive and predicted that collections would go far beyond those of the past.

Tracy Barham, general manager of Intermountain Theatres, presided and stated that the region was out to triple the $38,000 realized in the recent "March of Dimes" drive. Sgt. Lloyd Sweeney, Guadalcanal hero, told of his experience with the Red Cross in the field. Roland Slater, American Red Cross field representative, spoke of the industry's part in the coming campaign.

Business Second to Red Cross in Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 29.—"The Red Cross comes first and business second," Abe Montague, Columbia general sales manager, told more than 240 local exhibitors at a campaign rally in the Copley Plaza Hotel here today. Harry Kalmine, Warner circuit operator, stressed the need for collections at every performance every day and urged the securing of ample personnel to cover every aisle.

Other speakers included Francis Harmon of the War Activities Committee, and C. F. Rowley, chairman of the Boston American Red Cross chapter. Marty Mullen of the M. and P. Circuit, presided.

18,000 in Rally at Garden Last Night

A rally at Madison Square Garden here last night, attended by 18,000 campaign workers, featured a cavalcade of Red Cross activities, staged by Leon Leonidoff, Music Hall producer, with a script by Ben Hecht and with Bert Lytell as narrator.

Participants included Gracie Fields, Lawrence Tibbett, Dean Murphy, Rosario and Antonia, and the Music Hall Rockettes and Corps de Ballet. Speakers were Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor Thomas E. Dewey, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and Rear-Admiral DeWitt C. Ramsey, chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. The rally was supervised by G. S. Eyssell and John Golden.

Richey in Pittsburgh

Henderson M. Richey, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, will leave here today to speak at the Red Cross rally in Pittsburgh tomorrow. He will keep a similar engagement in Buffalo March 8 before attending the M-G-M conference at the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago March 11-15.

Lederer, Gurie at Rally

NEWARK, Feb. 29.—Francis Lederer and Sigrid Gurie, co-stars of "Voice in the Wind," took part in a Red Cross parade and rally here yesterday. Governor Walter C. Edge and Mayor Vincent J. Murphy were also in attendance.

Curfew in Reading

READING, Pa., Feb. 29.—A curfew has been inaugurated here, requiring all youngsters, with the exception of war workers, to be off streets by midnight. The clearance hour was originally 11 p.m., but theatremen complained that such an hour would demand a complete revision of program schedules.

Reviews

"Norway Replies!"

(Royal Norwegian Information Service—J. H. Hoffberg)

PRODUCED under direction of the Royal Norwegian Information Service to provide the first official account of how Norway is using its resources to help defeat the Nazis, "Norway Replies!" is an effective documentary film. Narration is provided by three well known American radio announcers: Ed Thorgersen, Alois Havrilla and Ben Grauer; musical background is by Jack Shaindlin and his March of Time orchestra.

F. Herrick-Herrick, who wrote and directed background action, provided a thin narrative thread which follows a young Norwegian lad from his escape from Norway, during a commando raid, to London, from where he is sent on to the United States and eventually to one of the pilot training camps maintained by the Norwegian government in Canada. A full-fledged pilot, he returns to England to participate in raids over Germany. Stressed are the contributions of the Royal Norwegian Navy and Merchant Marine, the latter providing the necessary revenue to enable the government-in-exile to carry on its work with the Allies.

P. G. Johnson, official photographer for the Norwegian government, is credited with the photography with J. Rescher and his assistant, Dave Ettenson, doing photographic supervision. J. H. Hoffberg is handling the release of the film here for Norway.

Running time, 61 mins. "G."* Release date, not set.

MILT LIVINGSTON

"Whispering Footsteps"

(Republic)

Hollywood, Feb. 29

THIS starts out to be a mystery with a touch of horror based on a fear complex and might well have proven to be one of those Alfred Hitchcock dramas if the story had substance and if the direction and production had the necessary touch. Instead, it is considerably less.

Produced by George Blair, with Howard Bretherton directing from a screenplay by Gertrude Walker and Dane Lussier, "Whispering Footsteps" fails to give a competent cast its chance.

The film's plot centers around a young bank teller, who throws off a fear complex after he is suspected of a series of murders and after an utter stranger to the story is reported by radio to have been arrested and confessed the crimes. John Hubbard does his best under the heavy burden the story imposes on him in the role of the teller, while Rita Quigley tries to make the part of the banker's daughter in love with the young man ring true. Joan Blair, Juanita Quigley and others are retarded by the weak script.

Running time, 55 minutes. "G."*

JACK CARTWRIGHT.

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Acquires Reissue Rights to 4 Films

English Films here has acquired reissue rights in the United States for four films: "The Amateur Gentleman," with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Elissa Landi; "Accused," starring Fairbanks and Dolores Del Rio, both directed by Thornton Freeland; "When Thief Meets Thief," directed by Raoul Walsh and featuring Fairbanks and Valerie Hobson, and "Crime Over London," directed by Alfred Seizler and Harold French, with Margot Grahame, Paul Cavanagh and Basil Sydney.

Griesdorf in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 29.—Dave Griesdorf, district manager in British Columbia for Odeon Theatres of Canada, has arrived here for a ten-day stay. He will screen new Odeon Films product and confer with vaudeville agencies for bookings in Vancouver.

Third House for Snider

BOSTON, Feb. 29.—Ralph E. Snider, head of the Snider Circuit, has bought the Idle Hour Theatre at Three Rivers, Mass. In that vicinity he also owns houses at Palmer and Ware.

'Bernadette' in 2nd SRO Baltimore Week

BALTIMORE, Feb. 29.—"The Song of Bernadette" continued to do capacity business in its second week here at the New Theatre, while the Stanley and Hippodrome each announced an $18,000 week with "In Our Time" and "Tender Comrade," respectively, the latter with a stage show.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 2:

"In Our Time" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-50c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $16,900).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $16,000).

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(2,406) (30c-35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $13,900).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (83c-$1.10) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: at regular prices, $10,300).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
HIPODROME — (2,205) (28c-30c-45c-55c-66c) 7 days. Stage show: Jean Carroll, Burton & Janet, the Glenns, Senor Carlos, Dean Carroll. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $17,500).

"Nabonga" (PRC)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,400).

"The Ghost Ship" (RKO)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,560. (Average: $7,500).

'SnowWhite'Terrifi $20,000 for Record

CINCINNATI, Feb. 29.—Breaking th city's opening day record, and estab lishing an all-time high for the house "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, reissue, is doing a sensational $20,00 on a nine-day run at RKO's Gran Other houses are doing better tha average.

Estimated receipts for the week en ing March 1-4:

"Action in Arabia" (RKO)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c 85c) 7 days. Stage: Bill Robinson, Smile Burnette, The Star Dusters, Nan Rae an Mrs. Waterfall and Dixie Dunbar. Gross $23,500. (Average: $22,000).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (40c-55c-75c-$1,10 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,500. (Aver age: at 35c-40c-44c-55c-65c, $10,000).

"The Ghost That Walks Alone" (Col.)
"Uncensored" (20th-Fox)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days Gross: $1,500. (Average: $1,400).

"Devil Riders" (PRC)
"So's Your Uncle" (Univ.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days Gross: $900. (Average: $800).

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (RKO reissue)
RKO GRAND — (1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 9 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: 7 days, $9,500).

"It Happened One Night" (Col.)
"Lost Horizon" (Col.)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,000).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,800. (Average: $4,200).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,000).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the RKO Palace. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,500).

'Tokyo' Destined for $26,500 in Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Feb. 29.—"Destination Tokyo" opened big at the Hippodrome, heading for $26,500. "Where Are Your Children?" looked like it would double the Ohio average, with $10,000 estimated.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 1:

"North Star" (RKO)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $8,500).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNERS' HIPODROME—(3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $22,100).

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $3,200).

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $5,000).

"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c-85c) 7 days. Stage: D'Artega and all-girl orchestra, Beatrice Kay, Grace McDonald, Watson Sisters. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $25,400).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $19,000).

"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000).

New Broadway 1st-Run

The Central Theatre, Broadway subsequent-run house for years and operated by the Brandt Circuit, will become a first-run Saturday and will be renamed the Gotham. First picture under the new policy will be United Artists' "The Woman of the Town," Harry Sherman production.

Other films scheduled are Monogram's "Women in Bondage" and "Tunisian Victory" which was jointly produced by the British Army Film Unit and the U. S. Army Signal Corps; M-G-M is distributing.

Industry's All-Out Aid to Government

The U. S. State, War, Navy, Treasury and Agriculture departments, the U. S. Public Health Service, National War Fund, Marine Corps, American Red Cross, Office of War Information, War Production Board, Canadian National War Finance Committee and Canadian Minister of Finance are all being served in the war effort, on their calls for aid, the War Activities Committee disclosed here yesterday.

78,808, 40% of Industry Pre-war Staffs, in Service

(*Continued from page* 1)

theatres brought $11,944,752 for the American Red Cross, March of Dimes, United Nations Fund, Army-Emergency Relief, USO-Camp Shows and Greek War Relief, plus an additional $700,000 secured for Army-Navy Relief by Hollywood Caravan benefits and an additional $240,642 for the Red Cross from a New York Madison Square Garden benefit. In addition, Hollywood contributed $2,456,750 to these funds, plus the Los Angeles war and community chests.

Cited also was the industry's sale of "billions in bonds" for the Treasury's various drives. The WAC stressed "the importance of theatres as community Treasury offices," with 6,000 houses now designated as official bond-issuing agencies.

The report disclosed that in furnishing entertainment in 1943 for 16,793 U. S. theatres, 6,188 in Latin America, 1,179 U. S. Army theatres and hundreds of military outposts in global war theatres, Hollywood last year produced 396 features, indexed subject-wise as follows: No reference to war, 258 (65%); war pictures, 38 (9½%); war background only, 70 (17½%); spying, sabotage, 30 (7½%). Some 9,507 16mm programs had been turned over to military services for showing abroad by the year end.

Salvage drives, blood donor campaigns, food conservation promotions and recruiting drives were cited as further industry combinations.

The five newsreels, working with the Office of War Information, are still preparing a "united newsreel" so that audiences in neutral countries and among the United Nations may have an account of world happenings with commentary in the following 16 languages: Chinese, Arabic, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Hindustani, Bengali, Tamil, Teluga, Russian, Turkish and Afrikaans.

Regular newsreel subject matter ran as follows: Activities of United Nations fighting forces on global battlefronts, 39.8 percent; U. S. armed forces at home, 19.6 percent; messages from war agencies, 7.7 percent; war production, 7.4 percent; events among Latin and other "good neighbors," 3.9 percent; non-war themes, 21.6 percent.

"To reach the industry quickly with facts and to inspire patriotic showmanship, the industry needs a direct, never-broken 'line of communication' . . . the trade press provides that and magnificently," the report stated.

'Rookies in Burma' Heads for $31,000 In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 29.—"Rookies in Burma," with Cab Calloway on the stage, headed toward a big $31,500, with "The Sullivans" and "Gildersleeve on Broadway" hitting at $27,500 at the Fox. "Madame Curie" netted an excellent $16,000 in its third week at the Paramount.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 28:

"Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,800. (Average: $11,000).

"Timber Queen" (Para.)
WARFIELD—(2,680) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $22,300. (Average: $21,800).

"Frisco Kid" (WB)
"The Rains Came" (20th-Fox)
STATE—(2,306) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week (moveover from the Warfield). Gross: $13,400. (Average: $12,100).

"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $31,500. (Average: $25,000).

"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $27,500. (Average: $24,000).

"Flesh and Fantasy" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 5 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,900. (Average: $14,800).

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"So This Is Washington" (RKO)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,600).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT—(2,740) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $19,600).

See 20th-Fox, GE Television Tieup

(*Continued from page* 1)

stood, will be regularly informed by GE representatives of the progress being made in the development of GE theatre television equipment.

At present, 20th-Fox's only known television connection is through an interest in General Precision Equipment, which, with Paramount, has senior holdings in Scophony Corp. of America.

Baltin Secretary-Treasurer Of Television Broadcasters

Will Baltin has been appointed secretary-treasurer of Television Broadcasters Association, the board of directors announced here yesterday. Baltin has resigned as program manager of the Du Mont television station W2XWV, New York.

Baltin will handle both the association's business affairs and coordinate activities of member television companies now and in the post-war.

Other officers follow: Allen B. Du Mont, Du Mont Laboratories, president; Lewis Allen Weiss, Don Lee Network, vice-president; directors: R. L. Gibson, General Electric; E. J. Bingley, Philco Radio and Television; Worthington Miner, CBS; Paul Raibourn, Paramount Pictures and Television Productions, Inc; C. W. Mason, Earle C. Anthony; E. A. Hayes, Hughes Tool Co., and O. B. Hanson, NBC.

Galperson Planning Coast Talent Bids

(*Continued from page* 1)

plan for establishing an American distribution set-up under Arthur W. Kelly is seen as having altered Two Cities' distribution plans in this country since Kelly has indicated that he will handle the distribution here of Noel Coward's "This Happy Breed," a Two Cities' picture. Rank handles distribution of Two Cities' films in Great Britain and it is believed that Dr. Galperson is returning to discuss American distribution arrangements for Two Cities with Rank rather than continue to independently seek distribution here.

Marks Joins Monogram

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 29. — Joseph Marks, former RKO shorts subjects sales manager in London, has been appointed Monogram sales manager there, president W. Ray Johnston announced today.

Industry Tops Goal By 500,000 Bonds

(*Continued from page* 1)

longs to each and every one of the 195,000 members of the industry in all branches who unselfishly dug in and worked all hours."

Among the 500 present at the luncheon were top executives of all studios, exchange officials, independent and circuit exhibitors, and civic leaders. Eddie Cantor was master of ceremonies, and the speakers included Louis B. Mayer, Y. Frank Freeman, Jack Warner, Stanton Griffis, Joseph M. Schenck, Darryl Zanuck, Samuel Goldwyn, Mayor Fletcher Bowron, Rabbi Edgar Magnin, Marco Wolff of the Hollywood Victory Committee, Robert H. Poole, representing the territorial independent exhibitors; R. H. Moulton, territorial chairman of the War Finance Committee, and D. B. Durr of the Los Angeles Newspapers Publishers Association.

Skouras was presented with a scroll honoring him for his contribution to the war effort on the home front.

St. Louis Theatres Seek Uniform Prices

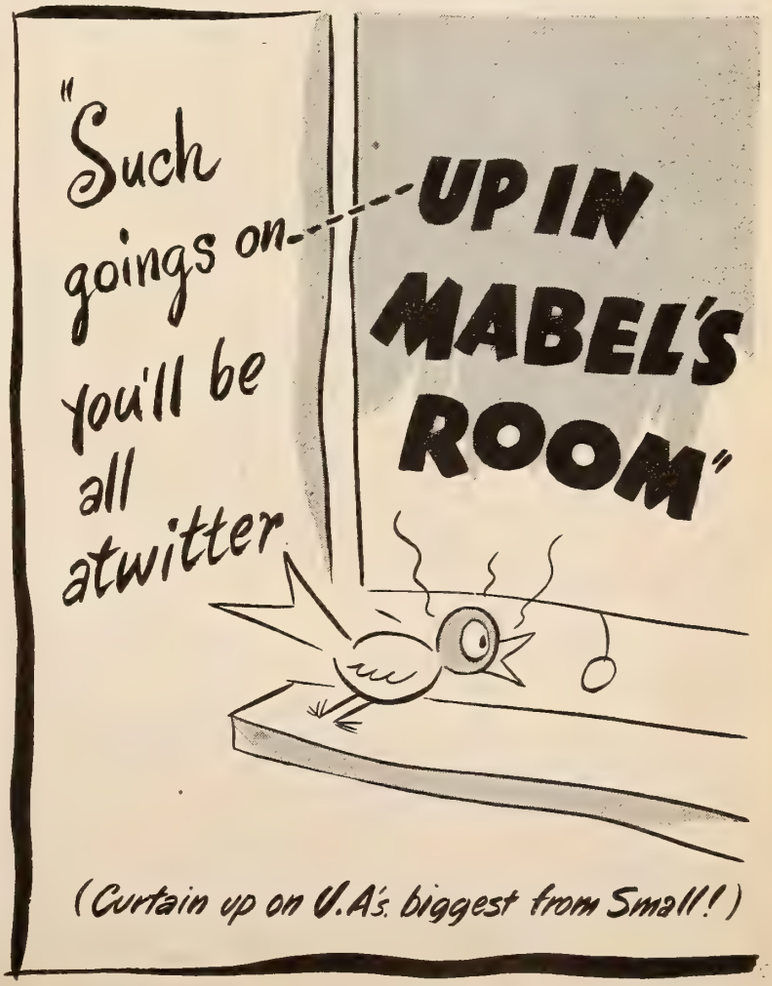
(*Continued from page* 1)

the return here of Harry C. Arthur, Jr., general manager of Fanchon & Marco, from California. Fanchon & Marco operates five of the local first-runs.

Fred C. Wehrenberg, president of the MPTOA of Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois and head of a circuit of neighborhood theatres here, has announced that a meeting will be called soon to discuss prices at neighborhoods. No definite price scale has been agreed upon, he explained, but the general objective is to avoid, if possible, the necessity of using pennies in making change.

Screen 'Falcon' Here

Trade screenings of RKO Radio's "The Falcon Out West" will be held here tomorrow at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the company exchange, 630 9th Ave.



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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 43 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1944 TEN CENTS

WPB Pushing Sale of Idle Film Supplies

New Regulations on Sale Of Excess Equipment

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The War Production Board today issued regulations for the sale of idle and excess materials, including certain motion picture equipment, by persons not ordinarily engaged in the sale of such products, such as exhibitors who are closing their theatres, and through dispositions in bankruptcy proceedings and other disposal channels.

The order provides that certain 35 mm equipment may be sold only on WPB authorization, such as amplifiers, bases, complete portable projectors, complete projection arcs, complete projectors, complete sound systems, current converting devices, loud speakers, pedestals, projection arc lamphouses, projector mechanisms and sound heads.

But no priority rating or allocation is necessary for the sale of automatic enclosed rewinders, change-over devices, film splicers, hand winders, nitrate film storage cabinets, repair units and parts, except electronic parts: steel fireproof booth tables and take-up reels.

More Cash Available For Theatre Tickets

WASHINGTON, March 1.—National income and money in circulation continue to rise at a rapid pace, it was disclosed here tonight by the Office of War Information.

The national income for 1943 now is estimated at $142,000,000,000, an increase of $26,000,000,000 over 1942. At the close of last year, there was $20,400,000,000 cash in circulation, an increase of $5,000,000,000 over Dec. 31,

(*Continued on page 5*)

Seek Exemption from Boston 48-Hour Week

An appeal for exemption of the Paramount exchange in Boston from the 48-hour work week ordered for that area by the regional War Manpower Commissioner was filed yesterday by Pat Scollard, Paramount home office executive. Other companies are expected to follow.

Boston has been designated a "critical" labor area with a 48-hour week

(*Continued on page 5*)

N.Y. Jurisdictional Battle Over 800 on Home Office Staffs

Challenging Local 109, Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild's representation of 3,000 "white collar" workers in the New York offices of eight film companies and five New York exchanges, Local 23169, Motion Picture Office Employees Union, AFL, has embarked upon a campaign to win over 800 office workers employed by Paramount, Columbia and United Artists, who are now in the Local 109-CIO fold. The three companies' contracts with SOPEG for the 800 expire in July.

MPOE now has a contract with Warner Bros. and its New York subsidiaries covering over 600 workers, and will absorb about 150 Universal "white collarites" on April 1.

With MPOE planning to petition the State Labor Relations Board to hold a new election of Paramount,

(*Continued on page 5*)

Fromkess Set As PRC Pictures Head

HOLLYWOOD, March 1.—Leon Fromkess, vice-president in charge of production for PRC, will leave here for the East in about a month for a board of directors' meeting at which he is expected to assume the presidency of PRC Pictures, Inc., as exclusively forecast in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 1.

Fromkess on Monday was named general manager of the company and of PRC Studio Corp. and PRC Productions.

Tonight's the Night Of Academy Awards

Hollywood, March 1.—Annual awards of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will be announced tonight at the Chinese Theatre here. Open to the public for the first time, the ceremonies will replace the annual Academy dinner, and include a 30-minute show staged by Marco Wolff. It will be shortwaved to troops overseas.

Ten pictures, 20 players, five directors and 15 writers, among other talent, were nominated for balloting and winners have been chosen from nearly 10,000 ballots.

Republic Now Has 26 U.S. Exchanges

Nationalization of Republic's exchange system in the United States moved a step closer yesterday with the company's announcement that it has purchased the franchise interests of J. H. Alexander and Sam Feinberg for the distribution of Republic pictures in the Pittsburgh territory, effective immediately. This new addition brings the total of Republic U. S. exchanges to 26 with but six exchanges operated by outside interests, in Kansas City, Washington, Denver, Salt Lake City and Portland, Ore.

Sam Seplowin, Republic's Central district sales manager, has taken over operation of the Pittsburgh branch temporarily.

10,153 Theatres Already Pledged to Aid Red Cross

More than 10,153 theatres already have pledged to participate in the industry's 1944 Red Cross Drive, March 23-29, Joseph Bernhard, national chairman for the motion picture division, announced here yesterday. He urged those who have not yet signed to do so immediately in order that their drive trailer, promotional kit and other material may be sent to them.

Herman Robbins, film corporate gifts chairman, whose jurisdiction includes home offices, exchanges, laboratories, newsreels, film libraries, deliveries and other related businesses, yesterday asked all units to withhold their donations for his committee in order that the highest possible total

(*Continued on page 5*)

100 Men in Stewart Invasion Film Unit

Col. Hugh Stewart, head of the British Film Unit, who has been in this country since November co-producing "Tunisian Victory" with Lt. Col. Frank Capra, left last night for England to take over the duties of chief of the Second Front Film Unit, which has completed plans for covering the invasion of Hitler's "Fortress Europe."

A crew of 100 men, including from 30 to 35 cameramen, will comprise the motion picture outfit, Stewart told the press, to which he was host yesterday

(*Continued on page 5*)

NBC, AT&T In Television Network Plan

Phone Coaxial Cables to Link Key Cities

The plan of the American Telegraph and Telephone's Bell System to construct six to seven thousand miles of coaxial cable linking key cities of the United States in the next five or six years will figure prominently in the television network plans of National Broadcasting, it was disclosed here yesterday by Niles Trammell, NBC president.

Tentative schedule of coaxial routes submitted by Bell cites approximate dates when television transmission facilities would be available. These dates, however, are subject to condition "that demand justifies their provision and that manufactured cable and equipment can be secured, in accordance with the present tentative program for extension of principal coaxial cable or equivalent routes for telephone purposes."

The New York to Washington link would be ready in 1945; New York to Boston, Washington to Charlotte, Chicago-Terre Haute-St. Louis and

(*Continued on page 5*)

Theatre Television Research Hampered

"Rapid realization of hopes for early theatre television would be greatly facilitated if the War Manpower Commission were to make engineering talent, and the War Production Board to make equipment available," Paul Raibourn, in charge of Paramount's television activities, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday.

"Paramount's post-war television plans for its theatres will be keyed to conditions as they develop," Raibourn

(*Continued on page 5*)

Darryl Zanuck Gets Legion Merit Award

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Darryl F. Zanuck's work in filming the North African invasion has been recognized by award of the Legion of Merit, the War Department announced today.

The Department said the award was made for the "performance of outstanding services in the North African theatre" while serving with the Army Signal Corps.

Personal Mention

JAMES R. GRAINGER, president of Republic Pictures Corp., is leaving for the Coast today by plane and will return to the home office in about 10 days.

•

ELEANOR BURSTON, of Warners' home office personnel department, will be married April 2, and will be given a luncheon tomorrow at the Hotel Dixie by the Warner Club girls.

•

ARTHUR SACHSON, Warners' assistant general sales manager, and ROY HAINES, Southern and Western division sales manager, returned yesterday from the Midwest.

•

BEN SIMON, 20th Century-Fox manager in New Haven, is back at his desk after convalescing in Westbrook, Conn., from illness.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, Warner short subject sales manager, just back from a Midwest tour, will leave tomorrow enroute to Denver, thence to the studio.

•

HENDERSON M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations executive, will be in Pittsburgh today on Red Cross business.

•

HARRY BERCOVICH of the Broadway Theatre, Regina, Canada, is visiting in Toronto.

•

SAM GANDEL, MORRIS and SAM SLOTNIK and RUBE CANTOR, Syracuse exhibitors, visited Buffalo this week.

•

WILLIAM CLEMENCE of Columbia's home office publicity staff, is on the sick list.

•

FRANCIS S. HARMON, WAC executive vice-chairman, returned yesterday from Boston.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M's Eastern and Southern sales manager, is due back today from Jacksonville, Fla.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warners' Eastern division sales manager, will be in Pittsburgh today.

•

TED SCHLANGER, Warner circuit Philadelphia zone manager, has returned to that city from New York.

•

GEORGE LANDERS, E. M. Loew manager in Hartford, visited Boston this week.

•

RICHARD MORGAN, Paramount home office attorney, was in New Haven yesterday.

•

TERRY TURNER, RKO publicist, was in Buffalo this week.

•

ANDREW GIBSON of Dipson Theatres, Buffalo, has scarlet fever.

•

PHIL ENGEL, United Artists exploiteer, is in Buffalo.

•

HOWARD LEVINSON, Warner attorney, is in Chicago for a week.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, March 1

BECAUSE the policy has worked on its behalf, and still is, Paramount may be expected to remain completely faithful to its current releasing policy for 1944-45. This means from 28 to 30, all of them welded by design from the ground up as "A" attractions with two exceptions: a limited number of carryovers on the "Henry Aldrich" series and a quota supplied by the fast-stepping Pine-Thomas unit. Even the latter producing source means to spend more per negative, however.

As at Warner and Metro, where the reserve stock is a handsome thing these days, Paramount is well-heeled with finished attractions. Those long since completed and those latterly so give this company at least 25 in its bulging vaults.

■

If you add pictures in progress to this backlog, the mathematics of the season balance off on all approaches. Yet that's only part of the story. The rest of it deals with immediates and futures which will find Freeman-Frank-and De Sylva-Buddy-concentrating production activities on another 25 or 28.

This is a situation, then, which can be cut up in a number of ways. What's ready now, or almost so, will give Paramount all of its required number for '44-45. The proposed 25 or 26 might suggest the whole, new smear will go over to '45-46. Only it won't work that way.

■

Some of those finished obviously will wait. And some of those yet to be made may not. The governing conditions are types of subject, changes in the market, anticipated or altered public tastes, the status of the war, an unpredictable popularity rocket gun as was the case of Alan Ladd.

Thus, the inventory continues heavy, some calculating it between $25,000,000 and $40,000,000 with our own odds leaning heavily toward the larger figure. A staggering sum this, about $12,000,000 of which is represented by a single quartet: "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Lady in the Dark," "The Story of Dr. Wassell" and "Frenchman's Creek."

■

Confronting Paramount, but not at all peculiar to it, is the problem of what to release at what time. Illustrative of this state of affairs is the internal back-and-forth on which way to go on "The Hitler Gang."

One set of executives thinks it is hot and timely and ought to be released immediately, which today means April or May at the very earliest. A second set argues the deliberate construction of the picture—scenes and sequences designed to cover a faster liquidation of Adolf than appears in sight now—eliminates the need for a rush job in merchandising and selling.

Both sets recognize the status of the market and the jam in playing time. The jam is so pronounced that it may well prove to be the factor which will decide for Paramount what Paramount cannot now decide.

■

Those "Gone With the Wind" grosses created noise and fuss in their day. And properly so, of course. These are different days, yet allowing for the altered times, "For Whom the Bell Tolls" has an amazing record to boast, too.

Approximately 340 roadshow engagements bulk around $3,300,000 in gross—distributors' end.

Anticipation on a possible total of 900 roadshow dates is better than $5,000,000.

In the offing is general release, beginning in the Fall. Paramount looks for another $3,500,000 in this area.

■ ■

Harry C. Arthur aimed high with his first deal on behalf of the Exhibitors Distributing Corp. He didn't make it, but he tried to clinch International Pictures for the company he says he intends operating along lines of the original First National.

■ ■

There is that story, and it's true, of the actor who refused to make a deal for personal publicity until a "psychic vibrationist" gave the prospective press agent the onceover. The purpose was to see if his tintinnabulations were in gear with the actor's.

Tintinnabulations were not.

Maybe the press agent ought to have his oil changed; he didn't get the job.

Only in Hollywood—

■ ■

WHAT'S IN A NAME DEP'T: In charge of labor relations at Columbia is B. T. Guild.

Comptroller at the same studio is Stanley Love.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March

CHARLES P. SKOURAS, industry national chairman of the recent Fourth War Loan Drive, will be given a testimonial luncheon tomorrow by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

•

Universal has filed a Superior Court suit seeking an injunction against Jack Wyman's announced stage production of "Frankenstein, the Monster, in Person" on grounds that the studio made five Frankenstein pictures, thereby building the character into a $1,000,000 asset.

•

Leon Fromkess, PRC vice-president, has promoted Irwin Franklyn from writer to producer and assigned him to "Delinquent Daughters." The company has also signed Saul Bernie, brother of the late Ben Bernie, as a casting director.

•

Victor M. Shapiro was reelected president of the Independent Publicists Society at a meeting here last night. Others elected were: Harry Rogers, vice-president; Jack Proctor, secretary and Maury Foladare, treasurer.

•

Vanguard has purchased "Houdini" from a Paramount original by Doré Schary. Frank O'Connor will direct with Schary producing. The film will go before the cameras following completion of "Double Furlough."

•

Armand Schaefer has announced that Republic will produce "Secrets of Scotland Yard," based on a Dennison Clift original magazine story, "Room 40-O. B."

•

"This Way Out," a James Ronald novel, has been bought by Universal, which will have Islin Auster produce it as "The Suspect," starring Charles Laughton.

•

"All Out Arleen," a story of the Wacs, has been bought by 20th-Fox. Otto Preminger will produce it as a Technicolor musical.

•

J. H. Moskowitz, 20th Century-Fox studio New York representative, arrived here today for a stay of several weeks.

•

Warners have purchased the James M. Cain novel "Mildred Pierce" and assigned Jerry Wald to the production.

•

Republic today signed Leonard Sillman to produce an adaptation of his stage production, "New Faces."

•

Jesse L. Lasky will arrive in New York on Saturday for a series of conferences.

'Purple Heart' for Roxy

Twentieth Century-Fox's "The Purple Heart" will open at the Roxy Theatre here on Tuesday, March 7, following "The Sullivans."

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

WELCOME

Rosalind Russell

TO WARNERS



Congrats on your new long-term contract, from the whole Warner gang!

First picture: "ROUGHLY SPEAKING" from the current best-seller!

'Desert Song' Gets $20,000 to Lead St. Louis Houses

ST. LOUIS, March 1.—Snow failed to affect the box office appeal of first runs this week. "The Desert Song" at the Fox is leading with an estimated $20,000. "A Guy Named Joe" at Loew's State will hit $19,000 for its second week and will hold.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 1:

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Week End Pass" (Univ.)
AMBASSADOR — (3,154) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average, $15,700)
"Phantom Lady" (Univ.)
"Harvest Melody" (PRC)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average, $9,900)
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE — (3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average, $18,900)
"The Desert Song" (WB)
"Coastal Command" (RKO)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average, $18,700)
"The Woman of the Town" (U. A.)
"Somewhere in France" (U. A.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM — (1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average, $7,100.
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average, $6,100)
"Government Girl" (RKO)
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
ST. LOUIS — (4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average, $5,200)

Films, Mail Retain Popularity Overseas

HOLLYWOOD, March 1—Randolph Scott, film player, like many others who have preceded him home from troop entertainment tours abroad, stated here yesterday that "mail and movies are still the most important elements in the lives of the boys over there." He made an 18,000-mile South Pacific tour for the Hollywood Victory Committee and USO Camp Shows.

Everywhere he went, Scott said, he found the latest films being shown "even when we got so close to the front that it was rare for a show to run all the way through without being interrupted by an air raid alert." The industry's gift films, the actor declared, "were as up-to-date on the islands as anything on Hollywood Boulevard."

In many advanced areas, Scott found himself frequently playing on the same bill with his latest picture. On Bougainville, where he made a personal appearance, he said his film, "Corvette 225," was shown. Scott revealed that Hollywood was creating a new audience of island natives with its 16mm gift films.

'Cover Girl' Shows Set by Columbia

Columbia has scheduled national exhibitor screenings in key spots in advance of the national release, on April 6, of "Cover Girl," Technicolor musical starring Rita Hayworth and Gene Kelly.

First screening took place last night at the Pantages Theatre, Hollywood, and the New York showing is set for 10 a.m. today at the Normandie Theatre.

Review

"The Racket Man"

(*Columbia*) *Hollywood, March 1*

BASED on a script which reaches far into the realm of improbabilities for plot material, "The Racket Man," directed by D. Ross Lederman for producer Wallace MacDonald, struggles to provide entertainment with a present-day background. Tom Neal, Hugh Beaumont, Jeanne Bates and Larry Parks do everything possible with roles the story has neatly dry-cut for them, straining their histrionic capabilities to deliver.

The story deals with a racketeer who, having just beaten a court case, finds himself inducted into service. At first he proves a mighty poor soldier, and just as he "finds" himself the Government decides it needs him as an undercover man to clean up black marketing. He leaves the Army, returns to his old haunts, traps racketeer after racketeer, but in the end is shot and killed by his former partner, whom he seeks to rub out in retribution for the murder of his girl friend's brother. The original screenplay is by Paul Yawitz and Howard J. Green.

Running time, 70 minutes. "G."* JACK CARTWRIGHT

*"G" denotes general classification.

Average Is $13,000, $24,050 for 'Ali Baba'

DENVER, March 1.—"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" on a dual at the Denver was in front this week with an estimated $24,050 against a $13,000 par. Two reissues at the Paramount, "The Rains Came" and "Under Two Flags" hit $14,400.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 1:

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
ALADDIN—(1,400) (40c-50c-60c-65c) Moveover. Gross: $4,950. (Average, $3,000)
"Fantasia" (Disney-RKO)
BROADWAY — (1,040) (30c-40c-50c-60c) Return engagement. Gross: $5,000. (Average, $2,500)
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
DENHAM — (1,750) (30c-40c-55c-65c) 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average, $7,000)
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
DENVER—(2,600) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $24,050. (Average, $13,000)
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
ESQUIRE—(740) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,550. (Average, $3,000)
"The Rains Came" (20th-Fox, re-issue)
"Under Two Flags" (20th-Fox, re-issue)
PARAMOUNT—(2,200) (30c-40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average, $9,000)
"Life Boat" (20th-Fox)
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
RIALTO — (900) (40c-50c-60c-65c) Moveover. Gross: $7,360. (Average, $4,600)

E. M. Loew Comment On Suit Clarified

E. M. Loew, New England independent circuit operator, has requested the following clarification to be made of a statement attributed to him in an interview published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 25 concerning recovery suits by the eight major distributors which are pending against him in Boston.

It was stated in the interview that "Loew contends that some of the claims against him are trivial" but in reply to questioning "conceded that other claims amounted to several thousand dollars." The statement referred solely to the amounts claimed to be due them by the plaintiffs in their bills of complaint, and did not refer in any way to the validity of such claims, their validity now being in process of adjudication.

DiLorenzo Promoted

Joseph DiLorenzo, manager of RKO-Proctor's in New Rochelle for the past 12 years, has been named Westchester district manager to take over the duties of Eddie Sniderman, who is now in the armed services.

'Crazy House' Rates Smart $16,500 Gross

BUFFALO, March 1.—"Crazy House" and "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" at the Lafayette are headed for a swell $16,500. "Desert Song" is expected to round out a good two weeks at the Twentieth Century with $13,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 4:

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
BUFFALO — (3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,400. (Average, $17,400)
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,600. (Average, $16,600)
"Three Russian Girls" (U. A.)
"Timber Queen" (Para.)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,400. (Average, $9,700)
"Desert Song" (W. B.)
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average, $12,200)
"Crazy House (Univ.)
"Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (Univ.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (34c-40c-55c-65c) 8 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average, $12,400)

Examine Immerman In Chicago Action

CHICAGO, March 1.—Walter R. Immerman, general manager of Balaban and Katz, was cross-examined this afternoon by plaintiff's counsel, Thomas G. McConnell, in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust suit. He interpreted technicalities of clearance contracts and reviewed bank nights from 1935-36.

McConnell demanded that Immerman bring to court tomorrow box office reports on Tower Theatre bank nights for comparison with the same event at the plaintiff's house as a means of proving sufficiency of patronage for both theatres.

Joseph Kinsky Joins Paramount Staff

Joseph Kinsky, formerly in charge of theatres in the Omaha territory for Tri-States Theatre Corp., has joined the Paramount theatre department at the home office here for general duties, it was announced yesterday by Leonard H. Goldenson, vice-president in charge of theatre operations.

Kay Joins Monogram

TORONTO, March 1.—Harold Kay, exhibitor, has joined the sales staff of Monogram here.

15 Labor Leaders Laud MP Alliance

HOLLYWOOD, March 1.—Fifteen leaders of labor groups within the industry and in other fields have joined the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals in its drive against alleged Communist, Fascist and other subversive elements.

James K. McGuinness, chairman of the MPA executive committee, today announced that the labor chieftains after careful investigation of MPA motives, ideals and principles, joined in a letter of endorsement and support, which, in part, reads: "We are convinced you stand for true American ideals. We find that your principles in no way conflict with the religious, political, racial or civil rights of any individual and are in complete accord with the bill of rights. Therefore we consider it a privilege to endorse and support your organization."

Signatories

Signatories are: Ralph Clark, Studio Drivers Local 399; B. C. Duval and Edwin T. Hill, Propmen Local 44; Ben A. Martinez, Studio Plasterers 755; Guy Rushing, Lamp Operators 728; L. C. Helm, Studio Utility Workers 724; Walter Redmond, Plasterers and Cement Finishers; Homer L. Woxburg and Einer C. Mohn, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Joseph P. Tuohy, Studio Drivers 399; Albert K. Erickson, Laborers 729; W. C. Barrett, Grips 80; Carl G. Cooper, IATSE; W. C. Rohrbach, Utility Workers 724, and Frank Carothers, Motion Picture Internationals' Committee.

Redmond, Tuohy and Cooper will represent the labor groups on the executive committee, which has been further expanded to include president Sam Wood, Mrs. Lela Rogers and Oscar Oldknow, vice-president of the National Theatres Supply Co.

'Jingle', Show Get $30,000 for Record

INDIANAPOLIS, March 1.—The Circle, with "Sing a Jingle" and Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra on the stage, is grossing $30,000, the highest figure it has made in a year and a half.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 29-Mar. 2:

"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $11,800).
"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (Disney-RKO)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,600).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,500).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 5 days, moveover from the Circle. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,900).

3 Hurt in Film Blast

Benjamin Lytell and Theodore Streetmaker, employes of the Willard Picture Co., and Sylvester McCarthy, elevator operator in the local Pathe Exchange Building, where the company has offices, were all seriously burned when a quantity of film exploded in an elevator there yesterday afternoon.

Fitelson-Mayers Moving

Fitelson and Mayers, film attorneys here, now at 608 Fifth Ave., will within a few weeks set up new headquarters at 673 Fifth Ave.

N.Y. Jurisdictional Battle Over 800 on Home Office Staffs

(*Continued from page* 1)

Columbia and United Artists workers to determine whether SOPEG is entitled to act as collective bargaining agent, another CIO-AFL film jurisdictional fight is in the offing.

Late last week SOPEG informed Paramount that it wished to refer its office workers' job classification dispute with the company to arbitration. MPOE has already secured job classifications for Warner workers. The attempt to "capture" Paramount, Columbia and United Artists workers is viewed as the opening bid to eventually challenge the CIO union's representation of all film office workers in New York. IATSE "front office" exchange workers' locals in 31 exchange centers represent these workers with the exception of those in the New York exchanges of Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, Columbia and National Screen, which are represented by SOPEG.

Moss Leads Drive

MPOE's organizational drive is being spearheaded by Russell Moss, the union's business agent. MPOE presently holds an AFL charter as a Federal Office Workers' local but the plan of the AFL to charter a new international as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday will eventually affect the local's status looking toward the unifying of all AFL film office workers in the new international or under the IATSE.

100 Men in Stewart Invasion Film Unit

(*Continued from page* 1)

at the New Weston Hotel here. All have had experience under fire, he said, but they have not yet all worked together on an assignment. "We have picked good soldiers who had past experience as good cameramen or good cameramen who had past experience as good soldiers," the Colonel explained.

Col. Stewart revealed that the selection of a leader for the U. S. Signal Corps unit that will cover the invasion has already been made but said he was not at liberty to mention the name. He anticipated that his command and the American one would work in close harmony, possibly as a single group, and would be coordinated with the Royal Air Force unit.

Col. Stewart was in charge of taking the Sicilian and Italian campaign films, which are now in London for review to determine whether they will be released as a feature picture.

Columbus Fetes Clark

COLUMBUS, March 1. — M. R. (Duke) Clark, Cleveland Paramount manager, and seven-time chief barker of the Columbus Variety Club, was guest at a dinner in the club's quarters here last night. Clark formerly was in charge of the Paramount branch here. R. J. O'Donnell, Texas circuit head and national chief barker, and John P. Harris, Pittsburgh, past chief barker, were guests. Dinner followed a trade showing of Paramount's "Lady in the Dark."

NBC and A T & T Discuss Television Network Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

Los Angeles to Phoenix, 1946; Chicago-Toledo-Cleveland-Buffalo and a large part of a Southern Transcontinental route, to include Charlotte-Columbia-Atlanta-Birmingham-Jacksonville-Dallas-El Paso-Tucson-Phoenix, in 1947; and from 1948-1950, completion of the Southern Transcontinental route, linking of Washington-Pittsburgh-Cleveland, St. Louis-Memphis-New Orleans, Kansas City-Omaha, Des Moines-Minneapolis, Atlanta-Jacksonville-Miami, and Los Angeles-San Francisco.

Routes Subject to Review

According to Keith S. McHugh, A. T. & T. vice-president, the routes are subject to review just prior to the time construction would be started. The list of routes released does not include additional sections which might be advanced into this period should important television requirements arise which would warrant routes or sections being installed well ahead of telephone requirements.

Citing the anticipated need for these routes to meet the increasing demands for long distance telephone service in a letter to Trammell, McHugh says: "When coaxial facilities are being constructed for telephone purposes the Bell System Companies would be glad to provide additional conductors for television if then it appears likely that there will be a demand for such facilities sufficient to justify the large additional investment."

McHugh further says, "We shall also be glad to consider on their merits any requests for television facilities over routes where coaxial cable is not being planned during this period for telephone purposes. The question of when such facilities could be provided would, of course, depend upon conditions in the individual case and its relation to the total program."

NBC Cooperation Invited

Speaking about the equipment now developed by A. T. & T., McHugh says, "It will give a one-way television channel of 2.7 megacycles in width. Future developments will increase this to 4.0 megacycles and also provide for simultaneous use of a single coaxial unit to transmit a television channel and a large number of telephone channels. The future course would be determined by the speed of growth of the industry. Cooperation of NBC officials is invited so that the Bell System can best serve the interests of television."

RCA Shifts Three Sound Engineers

Robert C. Gold, RCA field engineer formerly engaged in Photophone theatre equipment installation and servicing in Iowa, has returned to RCA Service Co. headquarters in Camden, N. J., after eight months spent in servicing sound and equipment of the Armed Forces in North Africa.

Allan B. Chapman, for many years RCA Photophone engineer in Texas, has arrived in Europe, on assignment by RCA to work in cooperation with the U. S. Navy.

E. D. Van Dyne, of RCA Service Co.'s field engineering staff, has been appointed a group leader on equipment at a U. S. Navy Yard on the Atlantic coast. He formerly served for several years as RCA Photophone engineer in Minneapolis.

More Cash Available For Theatre Tickets

(*Continued from page* 1)

1942, and much of it available for buying theatre tickets.

Available statistics indicate that Americans are increasing their earnings at a more rapid rate than they are spending them on consumer goods and services, it was said.

Last year, OWI reported, an estimated $90,600,000,000 was spent for consumer goods and services, including motion picture admissions, an increase of $8,600,000,000 over 1942.

Nomikos Switches

CHICAGO, March 1.—Van A. Nomikos, president and general manager of Nomikos Theatres, announced today that his Empress Theatre will revert to combination burlesque and pictures on March 24, with N. S. Barger, who has been at the loop's Rialto for 11 years, as co-manager.

'U' Foreign Drive, 1st in World War II

Universal will launch a "Joseph H. Seidelman Foreign Sales Drive" on Saturday with all available foreign exchanges participating, including those in Algiers, Chungking and Madrid.

This will be the first international drive since the start of World War II. In addition to cash prizes, the winner will be brought to New York. A feature of the promotion will be a six-minute newsreel with Seidelman, who is "U's" vice-president in charge of foreign sales and Alfred E. Daff, foreign supervisor, explaining the campaign drive. Prints have been sent to all exchanges outside the U. S. A.

Theatre Television Research Hampered

(*Continued from page* 1)

said. Few television plans are being formulated now by the company.

Raibourn, who is also chairman of the post-war planning committee of Television Broadcasters Association, Inc., pointed out that the present shortage of engineers as well as WPB restrictions on equipment make any widespread theatre television experimentations impossible now. The armed services have first call on all experimental facilities, he reminded.

Levey Wins PRC Action

A jury in New York Supreme Court here yesterday awarded damages of $3,000 to Arthur Levey, former English agent for American films, in an action against PRC Pictures. He claimed a new contract between PRC and Pathe Pictures excluded him from collecting commissions, contending it was a renewal of a contract made with PRC in 1940, which he negotiated for distribution of films of PRC in England.

10,153 Theatres Already Pledged To Aid Red Cross

(*Continued from page* 1)

might be achieved. Working with Robbins are Joe Vogel of Loew's, Sam Rinzler of Randforce Theatres and George J. Schaefer, co-chairmen; also Samuel Schneider, Warners; Neil Agnew, Paramount; Jack Cohn, Columbia; Malcolm Kingsberg, RKO; William Michel, 20th-Fox; John J. O'Connor, Universal; Gradwell L. Sears, United Artists, and James R. Grainger, Republic, all company chairmen. A. Schneider of Columbia has been named committee treasurer.

Rallies in Chicago, Atlanta and Portland

Ben Kalmenson, addressing a Chicago industry Red Cross meeting yesterday at the Hotel Blackstone, appealed to the distributing division to give the campaign priority over everything else. "It is as important for us to cross that $10,000,000 goal as it is for our soldiers at the front to win battles," he declared, WAC reported here yesterday.

A similar plea to exhibitors was made by Edward L. Alperson, while Ben Shlyen said the trade press would cooperate 100 per cent. Other speakers included John Balaban, exhibitor chairman for the Chicago area; W. E. Banford, distributor chairman; Jules Rubens, War Activities Committee chairman for Illinois, and James E. Coston of Warner Theatres.

Two additional meetings were held yesterday. At the Henry Grady Hotel in Atlanta the speakers were Si Fabian, Sam Dembow, A. W. Smith, Jr., Fred R. Dodson, local distributor chairman, and W. K. Lenkins, exhibitor chairman. In Portland, Ore., at the Hotel Benson, Ned E. Depinet spoke for the national committee; Albert Finke for the Portland exhibitors, and Al Oxtoby for distributors.

Bernhard, Goldenson At Phila. Drive Meet

PHILADELPHIA, March 1.—An all-industry luncheon-meeting to formulate plans for participation in the Red Cross drive will be held at the Broadwood Hotel on March 13. Joseph Bernhard and Leonard Goldenson will address the meeting. The rally is being staged by Earle W. Sweigert, Paramount district manager and local chairman of the motion picture division's Red Cross Drive, assisted by Lester J. Krieger, representing circuits and Milton Rogasner, the independents.

Seek Exemption from Boston 48-Hr. Week

(*Continued from page* 1)

ordered for essential industries. Questions concerning the film industry's essential or non-essential position had arisen and the decision was finally made to file for exemption.

Exchanges in Atlanta are not required to abide by the 48-hour ruling which went into effect there yesterday since they have appealed for exemption and may continue their present shorter work week until action is taken on their appeals.

KEEP THIS IN STRICTEST





The Spanish have a name for this woman . . La Perichole. Certain restrictions prevent our translating it for you. So let's just say she's box-office. Ben Bogeaus has produced a whale of a picture about her and U.A.'s releasing it—

"The Bridge of San Luis Rey"

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Feb. 5	THE VIGILANTES RIDE Russell Hayden NONE SHALL ESCAPE COWBOY CANTEEN Charles Starrett O—72 mins.	(Sixth Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)		(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)			(Block Three) AROUND THE WORLD Kay Kyser M—80 mins. (411)			SWINGTIME JOHNNY Peter Cookson Harriet Hilliard Andrews Sisters M—60 mins. (8020)	THE DESERT SONG Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—94 mins. (310)
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D—63 mins.	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—67 mins. (409)		THE GHOST SHIP Richard Dix D—69 mins. (412)	(Feb. Releases. No definite date set) JANE EYRE Joan Fontaine Orson Welles D—96 mins. (420)	THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D—94 mins. (8066)	THIS IS THE ARMY (Regular release) George Murphy Joan Leslie M—115 mins. (224)
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)		THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)		CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins. (333)	TARZAN'S DESERT MYSTERY Johnny Weismuller Nancy Kelly D—70 mins. (413)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D—111 mins. (421)		WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D—63 mins. (8029)	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C	MADAME CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315)	HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	FRONTIER OUTLAWS Buster Crabbe O—(462)	THE BIG SHOW Gene Autry (reissue) O—(3302) HIDDEN VALLEY OUTLAWS Wild Bill Elliott O—56 mins. (378)	ROOKIES IN BURMA Alan Carney Wally Brown C—62 mins. (414)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M—(8011)	
Mar. 4		CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417)	ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)	TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)			HIGHER AND HIGHER Frank Sinatra Michele Morgan Jack Haley M—90 mins. (415)	(March Release. No definite date set) PURPLE HEART Dana Andrews Tala Birell D—99 mins. (422)			FRISCO KID (reissue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11	HEY ROOKIE! Ann Miller Joe Besser Larry Parks C	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS D (Advance Price Engagements) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—168 mins. (4338)	LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE Lionel Atwill Joan Parker D—(414)	THE FIGHTING SEABEES John Wayne Susan Hayward D—100 mins. (311)	(Block Four) TENDER COMRADE Ginger Rogers Robert Ryan D—102 mins. (416)	4 JILLS IN A JEEP Carole Landis Martha Raye Dick Haymes C—(423)	VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	HAT CHECK HONEY Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett C—(8031)	PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE Humphrey Bogart Claude Rains D—110 mins.
Mar. 18	TWO-MAN SUBMARINE Tom Neal Ann Savage J. Carroll Naish D	RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—93 mins. (418)		(Fourth Block) GOING MY WAY Bing Crosby Rise Stevens M—130 mins. (4319)		MOJAVE FIREBRAND Wild Bill Elliott G. "Gabby" Hayes 55 mins.—(377)	PASSPORT TO DESTINY Elsa Lanchester Gordon Oliver D—64 mins. (417)			LADIES COURAGEOUS Loretta Young Geraldine Fitzgerald Phillip Terry D—(8065)	
Mar. 25	SUNDOWN VALLEY Charles Starrett Jeanne Bates Walter "Dub" Taylor O—55 mins	A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)		THE HITLER GANG Robert Watson Alexander Pope D—(4320)	THUNDERING GUN SLINGERS Buster Crabbe THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (English) D—(413)	MY BEST GAL Jane Withers Jimmy Lydon Frank Craven C-67 mins.	THE CURSE OF THE CAT PEOPLE Simone Simon Kent Smith D—70 mins. (418)		SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Bonita Granville C	HI GOOD-LOOKIN' Harriet Hilliard Eddie Quillan Ozzie Nelson's Orchestra Jack Teagarden's Orchestra M—(8044)	
April 1	THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Gloria Stuart D	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—114 mins. (419)	HOT RHYTHM M—79 mins. Dona Drake Robert Lowery (314)	THE HOUR BEFORE THE DAWN Franchot Tone Veronica Lake D—75 mins. (4317)		THE LARAMIE TRAIL Bob Livingston "Smiley" Burnette O—56 min. (355) OUTLAWS OF SANTA FE Don "Red" Barry O—56 min. (366)	ESCAPE TO DANGER Eric Portman Ann Dvorak D—84 mins. (419)	(April Releases. No definite date set) BUFFALO BILL (Technicolor) Maureen O'Hara Joel McCrea D	UP IN MABEL'S ROOM Gail Patrick John Hubbard C	FOLLOW THE BOYS (A Charles K. Feldman Special Production) All-Star Cast M—(8061)	
April 8	COVER GIRL (Technicolor) Rita Hayworth Gene Kelly Phil Silvers Jinx Falkenburg M	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—101 mins. (420)		YOU CAN'T RATION LOVE Betty Rhodes Johnnie Johnston C—79 mins. (4318)	GUNS OF THE LAW James Newill Tex O'Brien O	ROSIE, THE RIVETER Jane Frazee Frank Albertson Vera Vague C—75 mins. (313)	ACTION IN ARABIA George Sanders Virginia Bruce D—75 mins. (420)	TAMPICO Lynn Bari E. G. Robinson D		WEIRD WOMAN Lon Chaney Anne Gwynne Evelyn Ankers D	SHINE ON, HARVEST MOON Ann Sheridan Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M
April 15		SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	LADY, LET'S DANCE Belita James Ellison Frick & Frack M—84 mins. (301) OUTLAW TRAIL (Trailblazer) O—53 mins. (364)	(Special) LADY IN THE DARK (Technicolor) Ginger Rogers Ray Milland M—100 mins. (4336)	MONSTER MAKERS D—(419)	OH SUSANNA Gene Autry (reissue) O—(3303)	UP IN ARMS (special release) Danny Kaye Dinah Shore C—105 mins. (Technicolor)		STRANGE CONFESSIONS Linda Darnell George Sanders D	HER PRIMITIVE MAN Louise Albritton Robert Paige D	

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 44 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1944 TEN CENTS

Matlack and Bunchez Are Top Showmen

Win Quigley Awards for Best Campaigns

Jack Matlack of J. J. Parker's Broadway Theatre, Portland, Ore., was awarded the Silver Grand Award in the 10th annual Quigley Awards for theatre showmanship sponsored by *Motion Picture Herald's* Round Table Department. Matlack, in addition, was awarded for the second year the special War Showmanship Award, becoming the first three-time winner in the competitions.

Gertrude Bunchez, publicity director for Loew's Century Theatre, Baltimore, was judged winner of the Bronze Grand Award, the first woman to win a Grand Award.

The judgings and annual luncheon were held at the Hotel Astor this week, attracting exhibition, distribution and advertising-publicity leaders.

(*Continued on page* 12)

'Lights Up for Red Cross': Bernhard

"The difference between lights up and lights out in making collections in theatres during Red Cross Week means a difference in lives saved," said Joseph Bernhard, national chairman of the industry's Red Cross Drive, at a rally of 400 exhibitors and distributors in the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, yesterday, the WAC here reported.

Bernhard emphasized the importance of holding a collection at every performance, with the house staff or

(*Continued on page* 12)

Industry Tribute To Harold Hopper

Harold Hopper, resigned head of the film section of the War Production Board, was feted by industry leaders at a luncheon here yesterday at the Waldorf-Astoria.

With George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee, as toastmaster, the industry representatives lauded Hopper for his "understanding of industry problems" as evidenced by his activities as WPB's film chief. Speakers were Gradwell Sears, Jack Alicoate, William Michel, Herman Robbins, J. Robert Rubin, Will Hays, Leonard Goldenson,

(*Continued on page* 12)

Academy Winners

HOLLYWOOD, March 2.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences tonight announced the following winners of its annual awards:

Most outstanding picture of the year—"Casablanca," Warner Bros.

Best performance by an actor—Paul Lukas in "Watch on the Rhine," WB.

Best performance by an actress—Jennifer Jones in "The Song of Bernadette", 20th Century-Fox.

Bert performance by an actor in a supporting role—Charles Coburn in "The More the Merrier", Columbia.

Best performance by an actress in a supporting role—Katina Paxinou in "For Whom the Bell Tolls", Paramount.

Best achievement in directing—Michael Curtiz for "Casablanca", WB.

Best written screenplay—Julius J. Epstein, Philip G. Epstein and Howard Koch for "Casablanca", WB.

Best original screenplay—Capt. Norman Krasna for "Princess O'Rourke", WB.

Best original motion picture story—William Saroyan for "The Human Comedy", M-G-M.

Most distinctive achievements in documentary production—Feature: "Desert Victory", British Ministry of Information. Short: "December 7", U. S. Navy, Field Photographic Branch, Strategic Service.

Best achievements in art direction—Black-and-white: James Basevi and William Darling for "The Song of Bernadette", 20th-Fox. Color: Alexander Golitzen for "Phantom of the Opera", Universal.

Best achievements in cinematography—Black-and-white: Arthur Miller for "The Song of Bernadette", 20th-Fox. Color: Hal Mohr and W. Howard Greene for "Phantom of the Opera", Universal.

Best achievements in film editing—George Amy for "Air Force", WB.

Certificates of merit to interior decorators of productions receiving awards for art direction—Black-and-white: Thomas Little for "The Song of Bernadette", 20th-Fox. Color: R. A. Gausman and Ira Webb for "Phantom of the Opera", Universal.

Best achievement in sound recording—Stephen Dunn for "This Land Is Mine", RKO-Radio.

Best achievement in special effects—Fred Sersen for "Crash Dive", 20th-Fox.

Best achievement in sound effects—Roger Heman for "Crash Dive", 20th-Fox.

Best scoring of musical picture—Roy Heindorf for "This Is the Army", WB.

Best music score of a dramatic or comedy picture—Alfred Newman for "The Song of Bernadette", 20th-Fox.

Best song—"You'll Never Know" from "Hello, Frisco, Hello", 20th-Fox. Music by Harry Warren, lyrics by Mack Gordon.

Best short subjects—Cartoon: "Yankee Doodle Mouse", M-G-M; Frederick Quimby, producer. One-reel: "Amphibious Fighters", Paramount; Grantland Rice, producer. Two-reel: "Heavenly Music", M-G-M; Jerry Bresler and Sam Coslow, producers.

Special awards—

Hal B. Wallis was given the Irving Thalberg award for maintaining the highest quality of production throughout the year.

George Pal was given a special citation for development of a new technique in comedy shorts as evidenced in his "Puppetoons."

Year's Income For Industry Over Billion

U. S. Reports Net Profit Of $60,582,000

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, March 2.—The U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau today released a "balance sheet" for 4,350 motion picture corporations for the last normal year before the war, showing that in 1941 they had a net profit, after Federal taxes, of $60,582,000 and paid dividends of $44,463,000, $947,000 of them in stock. (Time required for collecting and preparing voluminous records and other factors cause about a two-year delay in the Government's reporting of corporate incomes.)

Major items of income for the 4,350 companies were $56,601,000 from film and other sales, $945,973,000 from theatre operations, $20,392,000 from

(*Continued on page* 12)

6 Academy Research Council Citations

HOLLYWOOD, March 2.—Two plaques and four honorable mention awards for scientific and technical achievement, bestowed by the research council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, were presented tonight by Y. Frank Freeman as part of the annual ceremonies at Grauman's Chinese Theatre here.

One plaque went to Farciot Edouart, Earle Morgan and Barton Thomp-

(*Continued on page* 12)

Hays Marks 22nd Year With MPPDA

Will H. Hays, president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, on Sunday will mark his 22nd year as head of that organization. He retired as Postmaster General in 1922 to join the MPPDA.

The following industry and ex-industry executives attended the first meeting of the association: the late William E. Atkinson, R. H. Cochrane, Rufus Cole, William Fox, Samuel Goldwyn, Hays, Earle W. Hammons, the late Marcus Loew, the late Carl Laemmle, the late Lewis J. Selznick, Winfield R. Sheehan, Courtland Smith, the late J. D. Williams, and Adolph Zukor.

L. A. Businessmen At Skouras Tribute

LOS ANGELES, March 2. — Fifty leaders in Southern California business, industrial and civic circles paid tribute today to Charles P. Skouras for his leadership as national chairman of the industry's Fourth War Loan campaign, at a board of directors luncheon of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

The luncheon was the second given for him in Los Angeles this week. On Tuesday, 600 members of the film industry here attended a Skouras testimonial luncheon at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Bershon Pays Tribute

The guest of honor was introduced by David Bershon, who said, "He is the industry's outstanding leader in patriotic and civic matters." Herbert Moulton, Southern California War Finance Committee head, also spoke.

Besides Skouras the only other film leader present was Y. Frank Freeman, production vice-president ot Paramount, who introduced Skouras to the gathering, which included: Asa V. Call, Pacific Mutual Life Insurance; Neil Petree, Barker Brothers; Leroy M. Edwards, Pacific Lighting; Arch W. Anderson, California Bank; Paul S. Armstrong, California Fruit Growers; James L. Beede, attorney; Earl R. Carpenter, Paul G. Hoffman Co.; A. J. Gock, Bank of America; Malcolm McNaghten, Broadway Department Stores; George J. O'Brien, Standard Oil; Oscar A. Smith, Pacific Electric Railway; C. V. Tibbetts, Los Angeles Steel Castings; Lewis A. Weiss, Don Lee Broadcasting System, and others.

Industry Made Fifth Of "E" Bond Sales

In announcing last night in a broadcast from New York that the Fourth War Loan drive throughout the nation had exceeded by $2,730,000,000 its $14,000,000,000 quota, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., disclosed that the total number of "E" bonds sold was 60,000,000. The motion picture industry accounted for one-fifth of the latter figure, national chairman Charles P. Skouras having reported on Wednesday night that the industry sold 12,000,000 "E" bonds with a total maturity value of over $2,000,000,000.

Tom MacEvoy Dies

MILWAUKEE, March 2.—Tom MacEvoy of the local Columbia exchange, died here this week at his home in nearby Manitowoc. MacEvoy was once well known as an oldtime actor for Biograph, Lubin and other companies of a past era. He entered the film business following a vaudeville career as a partner of the late Ford Sterling. Surviving is his widow.

Personal Mention

L. J. SCHLAIFER, 20th-Fox Central sales manager, has returned to the home office after a two weeks' illness.

•

JACK ESSICK, son of P. E. ESSICK of the Scoville, Essick and Reif Circuit, Cleveland, has been commissioned an ensign and will report March 28. Another son, RAY, reported recently at Fort Schuyler, N. Y., also as an ensign.

•

LORETTA DEILING, secretary to A. J. O'KEEFE, Universal Western division sales manager, has undergone an appendectomy at Woman's Hospital.

•

JOSEPH QUITTNER, co-owner of Quittner & Perakos Theatres in Connecticut, was a recent visitor in East Hartford.

•

FRED MINDLIN, special service manager for National Screen Service, Chicago, is due here March 12 for a vacation.

•

IRENE GREENOF of National Screen Service, Chicago, has returned there from a New York vacation.

•

HENRY PORTER of National Screen's advertising accessory department in Chicago, has returned from two weeks in Phoenix, Ariz.

•

ROSE LEMS has resigned from HENRY KAHN'S M-G-M Chicago staff to be married to an Army officer in Oregon.

•

ED. H. COLLINS, executive assistant to W. C. GEHRING, 20th-Fox Western sales manager, is visiting Midwestern exchanges.

•

CLARENCE A. HILL, executive assistant to A. W. SMITH, JR., 20th-Fox Eastern sales manager, is expected back this weekend after an exchange tour.

•

ARTHUR SCHOENSTADT, president of Schoenstadt Theatres, Chicago, is due there March 15 from Tucson, Ariz.

•

HARRY SHUMOW, M-G-M's Milwaukee branch manager, was a Chicago visitor this week.

•

JOSEPH H. HAZEN, Warner vice-president, is scheduled to return from Washington today.

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, president of Loew's, Inc., is due back in New York over the weekend from Miami.

•

NORMAN E. SPROWL, Cincinnati, and JOSEPH L. MACSALKA, New York, both former Paramount employes, now in the Army, have been made lieutenant colonels, the former at Fort Knox, Ky., the latter at Camp Adair, Ore.

•

MICHAEL J. O'TOOLE, public relations counsel for Comerford Theatres, Scranton, Pa., has become a grandfather, a son having been born to CAPT. and MRS. KENNETH O'TOOLE at Seattle.

•

EUGENE FARRY of Comerford Theatres' accounting department, Scranton, Pa., reports the birth of a son to MRS. FARRY at Mercy Hospital in that city.

•

EDWARD MCGOVERN, former manager of the Westside Theatre, Scranton, Pa., has arrived at Sampson, N. Y., for Navy training.

•

FLOYD STONE, *Motion Picture Herald* news photographer, will be married here next week to ANN O'DONNELL of Boston.

•

A. J. SHARICK, Universal studio sales liaison, will return at the weekend from a visit to exchanges in the South.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern and Canadian sales manager, is in Nashville and will return Monday.

•

LEON D. NETTER, Paramount theatre executive, has left for conferences with Paramount partners in Jacksonville and New Orleans.

•

FRANK MILLER, Paramount theatre partner and executive of Augusta Amusements Co., Augusta, Ga., is in New York.

•

JOHN R. WOOD, JR., March of Time executive, will return to New York today from Toronto.

•

HERBERT MORGAN, M-G-M Eastern short subject representative, returned yesterday from Washington.

Marks Is Sales Head Of Pathe in London

HOLLYWOOD, March 2. — Joseph Marks, former short-subjects manager for RKO in London, has been named sales manager of Pathe Pictures, distributors of Monogram films in the British Isles, the company discloses here. His headquarters will be in London.

'Moon' Screening Set

Warners will tradescreen "Shine On, Harvest Moon," musical based on the life of Nora Bayes, March 27, in all exchange cities.

M. J. Siegel Starts At M-G-M Studio

HOLLYWOOD, March 2.—M. J. Siegel, former president of Republic Productions who resigned Jan. 11, assumed an executive post at the M-G-M studio yesterday.

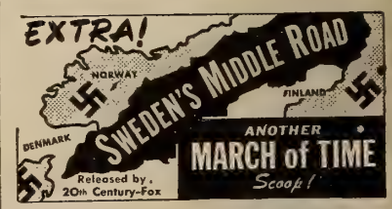
Siegel was succeeded some time ago at Republic by Allen Wilson, who was appointed vice-president of studio operations.

Leonard Joins UA

BUFFALO, March 2.—Amos Leonard of Syracuse has been named salesman for United Artists in the Rochester and Syracuse areas.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
DANNY KAYE
"UP IN ARMS"
Released through RKO
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600



RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
MICHAEL O'SHEA
SUSAN HAYWARD
"JACK LONDON"
First American Prisoner of the Japs

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
ON SCREEN
"MIRACLE of MORGAN'S CREEK"
BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
IN PERSON
Blue Barron's Orchestra
with
Tommy Ryan

ANNE BAXTER
THOMAS MITCHELL
"THE SULLIVANS"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus a Big Stage Show
ROXY
7th Ave. and 50th St.

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 10 a. m.
Rivoli B'way & 49th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco. New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

RKO

proudly welcomes

International Pictures

It is with understandable enthusiasm that we contemplate our future association with Leo Spitz, William Goetz, and INTERNATIONAL's great stars, directors, writers and producers... names whose distinguished talents assure a brilliant future for INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

Preview of Productions to Come →

Coming INTERNATIONAL

GARY

COOPER • WRIGHT

TERESA

in

"CASANOVA BROWN"



Directed by SAM WOOD

A

NUNNALLY JOHNSON

production

with FRANK MORGAN

Randolph Gypsy Rose Dinah Bob

SCOTT • LEE • SHORE • BURNS

in

"BELLE OF THE YUKON"



A TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL

with

CHARLES WINNINGER

Directed by

WILLIAM SEITER

Songs by Johnny Burke and Jimmy Van Heusen

PATRIOTIC SHOWMEN: RED CROSS DRIVE
MARCH 23 THROUGH MARCH 29!

PICTURES ...TO BE RELEASED BY RKO RADIO PICTURES

SONJA HENIE

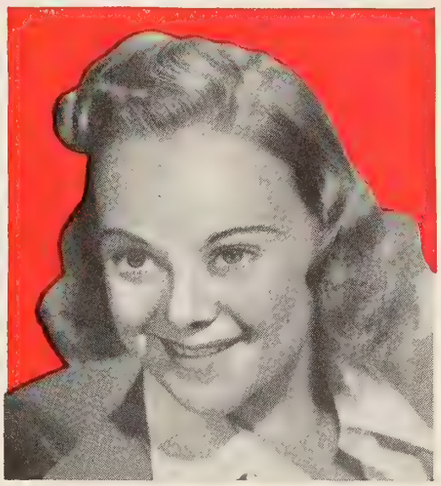
in the

TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL

"IT'S A PLEASURE"

produced by

DAVID LEWIS



EDWARD G. ROBINSON

in

"ONCE OFF GUARD"

Directed by FRITZ LANG

A

NUNNALLY JOHNSON

production



TO INTERNATIONAL:
WE PLEDGE

Showmanship

Yes, the same brand of
SHOWMANSHIP
that has successfully
sold the product of

SAMUEL GOLDWYN
WALT DISNEY
AND OUR OWN GREAT
BOXOFFICE PROGRAM



Weaver Marks 25th Year with Quigley

William R. Weaver, veteran writer on films and Quigley Publications' Hollywood editor since 1937, will mark his 25th year with the organization on Sunday.



William R. Weaver

Weaver's extended career in motion pictures embraces such varied capacities as projectionist, theatre organist and exhibitor. His first trade press employment was on Martin Quigley's old *Exhibitor's Herald,* Chicago, which he joined in 1919.

On the *Herald,* Weaver initiated the department, "What the Picture Did for Me." In addition to reviewing, he also handled departments on box office receipts and exploitation methods. After *Motion Picture Herald* was established in New York, Weaver came to that editorial department here. In July, 1937, he was made Quigley Publications' Hollywood editor.

Two Skouras Shows For Jewish Relief

Joan Roberts, Alfred Drake, Canada Lee, Mary Rolfe, Sunny O'Day, Foster Williams, Harry Sylvern and his orchestra and Alan Corelli will be featured in a preview of the all-star "Show of Shows" over Station WINS here on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. on the "This Is Our Cause" hour sponsored by Skouras Theatres.

Another Skouras show, "People to Remember," at 6:15 the same evening over station WINS will present Dean Alfange, co-chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, which is sponsoring the benefit at Madison Square Garden on March 13. The time was arranged by Nick Matsoukas, director of the war effort department of Skouras Theatres here.

Added yesterday to the cast of the benefit itself were Connee Boswell and Bea Wain.

Notables at London 'Curie' Premiere

Many notables attended the British premiere of M-G-M's "Madame Curie" at Loew's Empire on London this week, the company reported here yesterday. Among them were the Duchess of Gloucester, John J. Winant, American Ambassador; Count Racyzinski, Polish Ambassador; Mons. Vienot, French Ambassador; Viscountess Runciman, Marquess of Londonderry, Viscountess Simon, Viscountess Davidson, Lady Sassoon, Lady Howard De Walden, Lady Shakespeare and Lady Playfair.

J. Arthur and Mrs. Rank headed a delegation from the film industry.

'Children' High Claimed

PHILADELPHIA, March 2.—Monogram's "Where Are Your Children?" grossed $17,800 in its opening week at Warners' Stanton here, setting a new record for that house.

Review

"Partners of the Trail"

(*Monogram*)

Hollywood, March 2

JOHNNY MACK BROWN and Raymond Hatton, once again U. S. Marshals known as Nevada and Sandy, ride to the rescue of Rawbone, where mystery slayings have the ranchers in a turmoil. They discover clues linking the head of the water company, Robert Frazer, and his tool, Jack Ingram, to the murders. When Nevada finds the location of the placer mining claim, over which the slayings occurred, he traps the water company head, who is attempting to buy out the ranchers, and reveals the rich discovery.

Lambert Hillyer directed, with typical Western action uppermost throughout, from an original screenplay by Kenneth H. Young. Charles J. Bigelow produced.

Running time, 54 minutes. "G."* Release date, March 14.

JACK CARTWRIGHT

**"G" denotes general classification.*

GCF Will Finance Rank's Eagle-Lion

Eagle-Lion, recently organized here by Arthur Kelly for J. Arthur Rank of London to distribute his various British companies' product in the United States and elsewhere, will be financed by General Cinema Finance Corp., Ltd., of London, the company formed by Rank in March, 1936, with an authorized capital of about $4,900,000, *Motion Picture Herald* will say today.

GCF was the entering wedge for Rank's advance to control of the Odeon and Gaumont-British circuits and other film enterprises which he now owns or controls. Present aggregate capital of GCF is $100,000,000.

Brother Is Financial Mentor

Rank's brother, James V. Rank, has emerged as financial mentor of Eagle-Lion through General Cinema. The Rank brothers between them inherited a fortune estimated to run anywhere between $200,000,000 and $400,000,000 when their father, Joseph Rank, industrialist and financier, died last year.

In addition to Kelly, who is in charge of distribution in the U. S., Canada, South America and the Far East, and E. T. Carr, directing the territories of Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the Near East, other Eagle-Lion associates in London will be Leslie W. Farrow and John Davis, in charge of business administration; James B. Sloan, studio and production manager; and Filippo Del Giudice, adviser on stories and players. Davis, joint managing director of the Odeon Circuit, will be named managing director of Rank's new international corporate setup, it is understood.

230 Advance Dates Set on 'Marseille'

"Passage to Marseille," Humphrey Bogart picture now at the Hollywood Theatre here, will be generally released March 11 and has 230 advance bookings to date, including the out-of-town premiere today at the Orpheum, Des Moines. Four of the 230 bookings are day-and-date engagements, with three playing simultaneously in Los Angeles and two each in Bridgeport, Washington and Denver.

Treasury Clarifies Withholding Tax

WASHINGTON, Mar. 2.—Pending a U. S. Supreme Court decision which is expected to clarify the definition of salary with respect to the withholding tax, the Internal Revenue Bureau has advised all of its collectors that entertainers appearing in theatres under contracts which ordinarily specify only the time, remuneration, place and duration of each engagement, will be considered as independent contractors, while musicians or actors employed under a "Form B" contract will be considered employes of the operator for whom they perform services.

An informal notification that this policy would be followed was sent to major circuits in January. But formal instructions now have been sent to collectors throughout the country.

Exceptions to Tax Levies

In the case of talent considered independent contractors, theatre operators will not be required to deduct either the old-age pension levy or the withholding tax from their compensation, nor pay the unemployment tax, unless the Bureau determines in a specific case that taxes should be collected, reported and paid.

It was stressed, however, that each theatre operator should keep records of entertainers' names, account numbers and wages, for the purpose of enabling him to make such returns or reports as may be required if he is subsequently determined to have been the employer of the entertainers. Where musicians or actors are employed under a "Form B" contract, the employing theatre operator must collect, report and pay the taxes.

Morgan Deposition in Griffith Case Taken

Paramount contracts with the Griffith Amusement Co. and independent exhibitors in the Oklahoma-Texas territory where the latter operates were identified here yesterday by Richard P. Morgan of the Paramount legal department in depositions taken by Robert L. Wright and Albert Boggess, special assistants to the U. S. Attorney General, preparatory to the trial of the Government's anti-trust suit against Griffith. Letters, memos and other records were also verified.

Depositions from 20th-Fox are next and will be taken probably early next week, Boggess told MOTION PICTURE DAILY after yesterday's hearing.

Coast Flashes

DAVID O. SELZNICK has allocated an initial budget of $250,000 for advertising "Since You Went Away," and a like amount will follow the film's release late in May.

•

"Red" Skelton, Alan Ladd, Alvino Rey and Johnny Johnston have reported for pre-induction physicals under the Presidential order for the review of draft deferments for occupational and physical disabilities.

•

Samuel Goldwyn has purchased Lion Feuchtwanger's forthcoming novel, "Simone," for Teresa Wright. Jo Swerling has been borrowed from 20th-Fox to do the screenplay.

•

Homer Rockwell, executive vice-president of *Screenland,* a Hunter publication, is here for a month visiting studios.

•

Harold Clurman, founder of the New York Group Theatre, has been signed to a producer-writer-director contract by RKO.

•

Steve Broidy, Monogram general sales manager, is due to return here Monday from Chicago, where he stopped over en route from New York.

•

M-G-M has purchased "Higher Than the Torch," an original by Lionel Houser, which Robert Sisk will produce in Technicolor.

•

L. K. Sidney, M-G-M executive, and George Sidney, director of "Bathing Beauty," left today for New York.

•

Ned E. Depinet, RKO Radio president, will arrive here Saturday from the East.

•

Maxwell Arnow, Columbia production executive, returned here today from Eastern conferences.

•

Herman Millakowsky's first for Republic will be "Where Are Your Parents?"

RKOites' Lunch for Kessler, Kestenbaum

Ed Kestenbaum and George Kessler of RKO Theatres' home office publicity department, both of whom will soon report to the Army, were guests of Harry Mandel and the RKO promotional staff at Ronnie's Steak House here yesterday.

Among those attending were: Herman Barnett, Marion Barton, Emma Carbone, John A. Cassidy, Peggy Foldes, Bill Kernan, William Kaskoun, Elizabeth Laus, Vincent Liguori Blanche Livingston, Ray Malone, Jean MacDonald, Milton Mansdorf, Ira Morais, Pvt. James Mulhall, Ruth Newman, Edward O'Brien, Sarah Polan, Sidney Rubin, Bill Slater, Bill Thorman, Al Zimbalist and Mandel.

'Cover Girl' Shows

NEW HAVEN, March 2.—Columbia will hold trade showings of "Cover Girl" in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury houses. The picture will be pre-released at the Loew's Poli "A" houses in New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury and at E. M. Loew's, Hartford, on March 23 and 24.

EVEN IN THESE DAYS OF
THE AMAZING STORY OF
IS *the talk of the*

esented through another of
ose great showmanship cam-
aigns such as hurled
"Hitler's Children" and
"Behind The Rising Sun"
to towering box-office heights!

. . . Premiered in 60 cities of four states — Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia — in conjunction with WLW, Cincinnati, "The Nation's Station," and backed by such a wave of exploitation as to cover the territory with a blanket of promotion that sold every seat available and had them standing everywhere!

Circuit operators, independents, bookers, theatremen everywhere can't get over the terrific box-office performance anew of one of the greatest attractions of all time . . .

BROKE ALL ATTENDANCE AND MONEY RECORDS FOR THE WEEK AT THE GRAND, CINCINNATI. . . .

Opening day receipts for this 1451-seat house more than $1000 greater than the picture's original opening in a 3,000-seat house...held over....

Indianapolis' great Indiana Theatre does terrific week . . . with practically all of the theatres



WA
full-le
Sn

Here's how..

the money and attendance records were broken . . . a day-by-day box score of attendance of adults and children:

	ADULTS	KIDS	TOTAL
Tuesday	5607—(56%)	4215—(44%)	9822
Wednesday	4089—(66%)	2099—(34%)	6188
Thursday	3541—(66%)	1812—(34%)	5353
Friday	3844—(69%)	1685—(31%)	5529
Saturday	4805—(55%)	3807—(45%)	8612
Sunday	4290—(57%)	3210—(43%)	7500
Monday	1860—(57%)	1035—(43%)	2895
	28036—(61%)	17863—(39%)	45899

{*Grand Theatre, Cincinnati*}

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
RED CROSS WEEK
MARCH 23rd thru 29th

CROWDED THEATRES "SNOW WHITE'S" RETURN *industry*

in the great 60-city premiere reporting grosses paralleling and in many cases greater than for the top pictures of recent months . . . Cities like Columbus, Dayton, Louisville, Ft. Wayne, Richmond, Ind., and Logansport report business almost beyond belief. . . .

Reports of beating top recent pictures from Muncie, Frankfort, Ind., Peru, Ashland, Ky., Middletown, Greenville, Wilmington, Cambridge, Lebanon and many, many more. . . .

More than ever, "Snow White" has the *glorious lift* for these times . . . Get your date set now!



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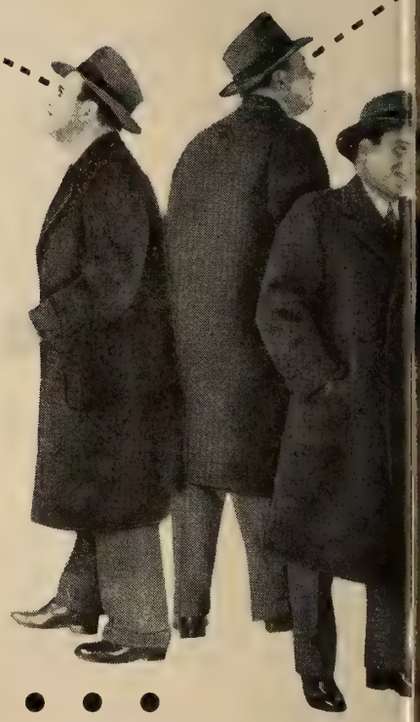
DISNEY'S
feature production

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

In Multiplane TECHNICOL



New house record for a full-length attraction at the Globe. First four days absolute capacity. "We turned away more people the first week-end than ever before in the Globe Theatre's career," says Harry Brandt.
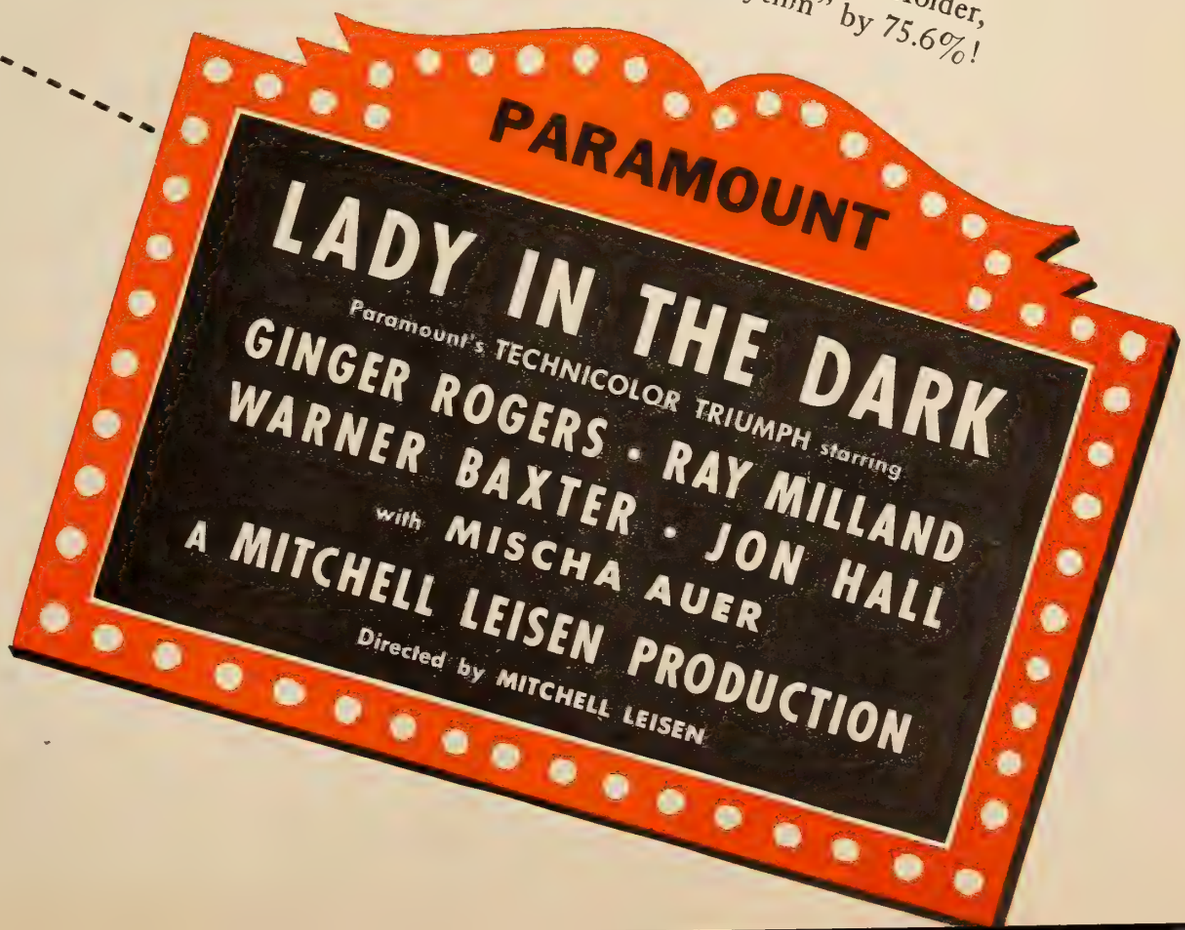


Everywhere You Look In Times Square... There's a Paramount



Smash all-time single-day record at the Criterion, including all holiday figures. "Riotous" . . . "enormously funny" . . . "sure fire" . . . "swell surprise," say all New York movie critics.

1st Week Breaks 5 All-Time Paramount Records! Biggest Week, Week-Day, Sunday, Opening Day and Biggest Single Day Topping Holiday Week Opening of Previous Record-Holder, "Star Spangled Rhythm" by 75.6%!



Hit

'Lights Up for Red Cross': Bernhard

(Continued from page 1)

volunteers ready to function the moment the Red Cross trailer ends.

Harry M. Kalmine, traveling representative of the theatre group, discussed the service exhibitors are rendering to the community in acting as a spearhead for the nationwide $200,000,000 drive. H. M. Richey, distributor representative, pledged the energy of the country's distributing personnel. Moe Silver, exhibitor chairman for the territory, acted as toastmaster to the showmen from Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Eastern Ohio.

Speaks for Independents

M. A. Rosenberg, co-chairman and Allied exhibitor leader, said independent theatres would back up the drive efficiently.

Other speakers were State Senator Frank Harris, Mayor Cornelius D. Scully, Pvt. Ted Orlowski, hero of Guadalcanal and Pearl Harbor, and Mrs. James A. Bines of the Red Cross, last white woman to escape from Singapore.

Two additional meetings were held yesterday. One was at the Hotel Roosevelt, New Orleans, with Si Fabian, Sam Dembow and A. W. Smith, Jr., as visiting speakers; and E. V. Landaiche, local distributor chairman, and E. V. Richards, exhibitor chairman. The other was at the Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, addressed by E. L. Alperson, Ben Kalmenson, Ben Shlyen, H. J. Shumow, local distributor chairman, and Harold Fitzgerald, exhibitor chairman.

Appoint Kreiger and Rogasner in Phila.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2. — This city's 1944 industry Red Cross drive got under way today with Earle Sweigert, theatre division chairman, crystalizing plans for theatre collections and naming Lester Kreiger of Warners as circuit chairman, and Milt Rogasner of the Iris Theatre as independent chairman. The latter has divided his area into 13 districts, with a manager as lieutenant in each.

By Monday every theatre manager in the territory will have been personally invited to the exhibitor luncheon March 13.

Urge Screening Of Red Cross Picture

Suggested for use by exhibitors to stimulate interest in the Red Cross Drive, Warner Bros. is making available gratis prints of "At His Side," a nine-minute subject made by the Red Cross to depict the varied aspects of its service to fighting men in various theatres of the war.

Along with shots of the Red Cross in action, operating canteens and administering to the wounded, the film features brief addresses by Major General James Doolittle and Lt. General Mark W. Clark. Exhibitors are urged by Joseph Bernhard, industry's drive chairman, to show the film now. Prints can be secured from Warner exchanges.

$175,000 for 'Polio'

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Carter Barron of Loew's, chairman of the film committee here for the Infantile Paralysis Fund, reports that the local industry has raised more than $175,000 for the fund. Local showmen were aided by Variety Club members.

Matlack, Bunchez Win Top Showmen Awards

(Continued from page 1)

Martin Quigley, editor-in-chief and president of Quigley Publishing Co., presided. Principal speakers were Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president in charge of Loew's out-of-town theatres, and Arthur Mayer, operator of the Rialto Theatre and motion picture consultant to the War Department.

James J. King of RKO's Keith Memorial Theatre, Boston, winner of the Third and Fourth Quarter Plaques during 1943, placed high in the final judging. Other entries who were in the final running were: Joseph Boyle, Loew's Poli Theatre, Norwich, Conn.; Clayton Cornell, Schines's Strand, Amsterdam, N. Y.; William Galligan, Commercial, Chicago; Arthur Groom, Loew's State, Memphis; Louis Mayer, RKO Palace, Cleveland; Rita Morton, RKO Albee, Providence; James Redmond, Rivoli, Falls City, Neb.; Joseph Samartano, Loew's Poli, Meriden, Conn.; Mollie Stickles, Strand, Waterbury, Conn., and Charles B. Tayler, Shea's Theatres, Buffalo, N. Y.



Jack Matlack

Matlack, publicity director of J. J. Parker Theatres and manager of their Broadway at Portland, was adjudged winner of the Silver Award for promoting specific pictures with a definite purpose established beforehand, executed in all of his campaigns. Miss Bunchez got the Bronze Award for consistent effort and ability to utilize newspaper headlines, linking them with her theatre's pictures.

Matlack won his second War Showmanship citation for his campaigns on war bond drives, Red Cross collections and other patriotic efforts. He instituted the "J. J. Parker Overseas Cigarette Service." Special consideration in this Award was given by the judges to campaigns submitted by Joseph Boyle, William Galligan, Charles B. Tayler, Lige Brien, Robert Rosen, Nat Silver and W. B. Small.



Gertrude Bunchez

The judges were Leon Bamberger, Mort Blumenstock, Jack Cohn, George Dembow, Oscar A. Doob, H. R. Emde, G. S. Eyssell, William R. Ferguson, Thomas Gerrity, Lt. (j. g.) Douglas George, Harry Goldberg, Lou Goldberg, Leonard Goldenson, Ben Grimm, Charles Reed Jones, Don Jacocks, Malcolm Kingsberg, Bernard Kreisler, Paul Lazarus, Jr., Irving Lesser, Henry Linet, Lawrence Lipskin, S. Barret McCormick, Frank J. A. McCarthy, Charles MacDonald, Harry Mandel, Arthur Mayer.

Also, A. Montague, Charles C. Moskowitz, Lou Pollock, Lou Preston, Maurice Maurer, Henderson Richey, Herman Robbins, Frank Rosenberg, Charles Schlaifer, Gradwell Sears, Charles Smakwitz, Joseph Springer, Arnold Stoltz, Vincent Trotta, Joseph Vogel, William White, Phil Williams.

$1,065,815,000 Is One Year's Income

(Continued from page 1)

rents and royalties and $18,722,000 from dividends from affiliated domestic corporations. Total receipts were $1,065,815,000.

Major items of expense were cost of "goods" sold, $11,227,000; cost of operations, $554,796,000; compensation of officers, $21,675,000; rent paid on business property, $76,748,000; interest paid, $13,899,000; taxes other than Federal income and excess profits, $25,808,000; depreciation, $28,082,000, and long-term capital loss, $11,139,000. Total deductions were $980,688,000.

The net profit of the reporting companies was $85,127,000 on which Federal taxes of $24,545,000 were paid.

Trade Shows for 'Tunisian', 'Cliffs'

M-G-M will tradeshow "Tunisian Victory" at its New York exchange on Monday. It will be shown in Memphis at the 20th-Fox exchange on March 18, and elsewhere throughout the country on March 20.

There will also be a tradeshowing of "The White Cliffs" at the Normandie Theatre here, next Wednesday.

Denies Saying MGM Withheld Product

CHICAGO, March 2.—Felix Mendelssohn, former M-G-M branch manager here, taking the stand today in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust trial, denied he had told Leo Saulkins, Marks Brothers Theatres booker, in 1927 that no product would be sold Marks because the New York office had said Balaban and Katz had exclusive contract rights.

Testimony on contract negotiations and clearance facts was given by three M-G-M Chicago officials: John E. Flynn, Western division general sales manager: Sam Shirley, district manager, and Walter E. Banford, branch manager. Tomorrow Sam Gorelick, RKO branch manager, will be recalled to finish explaining his company's contracts.

Name MPA Committees

Moe Sanders, president of Motion Picture Associates here, has appointed new chairmen of committees. Jesse Stern was named chairman of the constitution committee; Sy Seymour, chairman of the welfare committee; Jules Charnow, chairman of membership, and W. E. MacKee, chairman of publicity.

6 Academy Research Council Citations

(Continued from page 1)

son and the Paramount engineering and transparency departments for developing a method of duplicating and enlarging natural color photographs, and another to the photo products department of E. I. DuPont de Nemours for developing fine grain films.

Honorable mentions went to Daniel J. Bloomberg and the Republic sound department for developing an inexpensive method of converting Moviolas to Class "B" push-pull reproduction, Charles Galloway Clarke and the 20th-Fox camera department for a device for composing artificial clouds into motion picture scenes during production photography, Willard H. Turner and the RKO sound department for a phono-cue starter, and Edouart and the Paramount transparency department for an automatic electric transparency cueing timer.

Troops Abroad Hear 'Show'

The Academy ceremonies tonight were broadcast directly to the public for the first time, over the Columbia network throughout most of the United States. Troops overseas heard the program via shortwave.

With demand for reservations outstripping the supply, and 2,000 "bleacherites" plus hundreds of sidewalk standees in spite of indefinite weather witnessing the arrival of the luminaries, the 16th annual event set new records and precedents acclaimed by the industry at large.

Staged for the first time in a theatre, the ceremony packed the Chinese's 2,048 seats at $11 each, with hundreds of orders turned back. The largest previous attendance figure, limited by the capacity of available dining halls, was 1,300.

Due to the necessity of radio timing, presentations and acceptances were limited to script length. There were no guest speakers. A half-hour stage show, presenting players who had entertained troops overseas, was another innovation. Throughout the evening, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy furnished impromptu remarks from a stage box.

Although wartime considerations prompted an Academy ruling that dress be informal, the recent lifting of dimout regulations permitted an all-out use of searchlights and other typical Hollywood symbols.

Industry Tribute To Harold Hopper

(Continued from page 1)

Arthur Meyer, Francis S. Harmon and Jack Cohn.

Also present were: L. L. Allison, Richard Altshuler, Leon J. Bamberger, George Borthwick, Bob Condon, George Dembow, William German, Herman Gluckman, Capt. Monroe Greenthal, Charles Wiswal, Don Hyndman and Walter Titus.

Fete Capital Critics

WASHINGTON, March 2.—John Allen and Rudy Berger will be "Kings for the Day" at a luncheon for Washington film and drama critics on Monday, March 6, at the Hotel Willard here, to be given by the Variety Club. Jay Carmody of the *Washington Star* will be master of ceremonies.

Announcing

SPECIAL M-G-M TRADE SHOWINGS

NEW YORK—NEW JERSEY TERRITORIES ONLY

THE UNITED STATES
and
BRITISH GOVERNMENTS
present

"TUNISIAN VICTORY"

The invasion and conquest of North Africa — the first great combined operation and victory of the British and American forces

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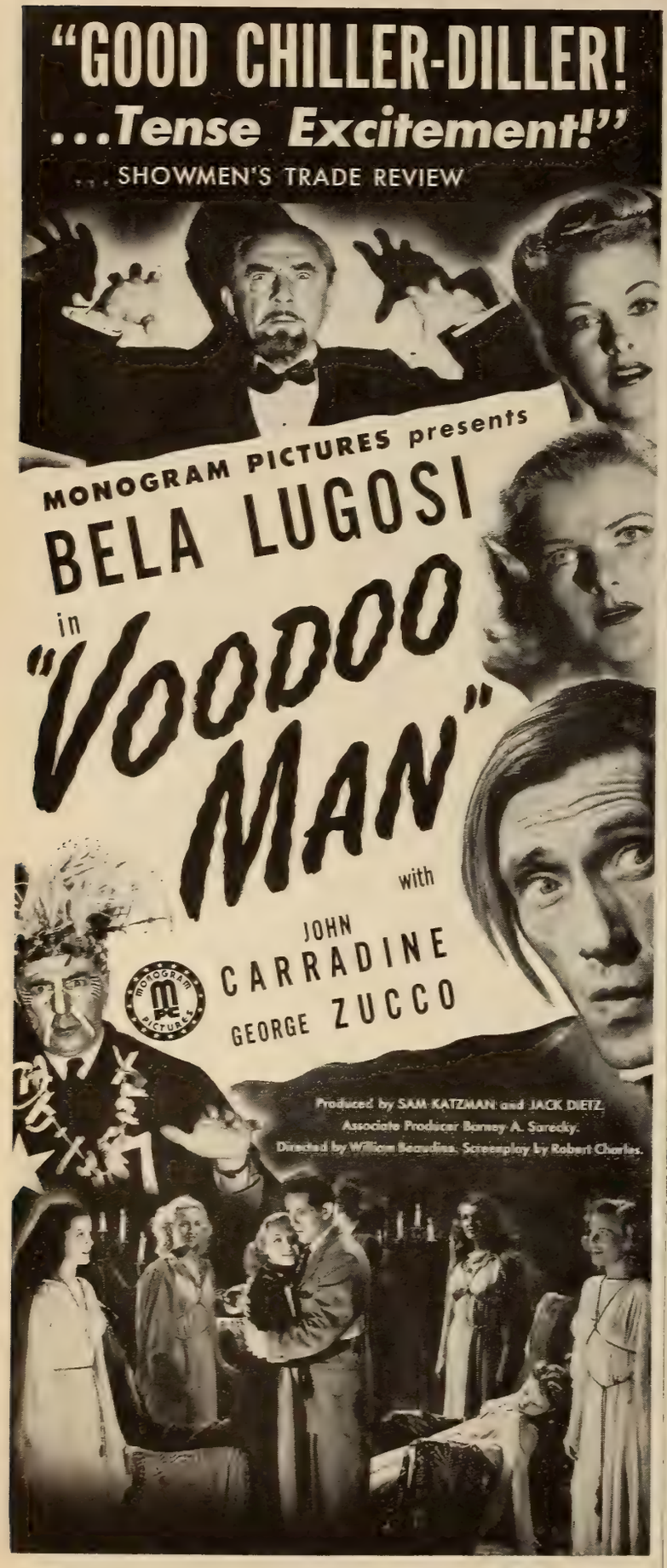
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER RELEASE

M-G-M SCREENING ROOM

630 NINTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y.

MONDAY · MARCH 6th

10:30 A. M. 2:30 P. M.



Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 2

HUNT STROMBERG, listed in *Quigley Publications'* annual *Fame* as the Champion of Champion Producers with 28 monthly, seven semi-annual and ten annual Champion pictures during the past 12 years, has a busy year scheduled in his plans for three United Artists releases. The first to go before the cameras will be "Guest in the House," starring Anne Baxter. Director Lewis Milestone will put this one on the stages March 8. Scheduled to follow closely will be "Dishonorable Lady," from the Broadway play.

•

Gene Tierney, whose last picture at 20th Century-Fox was "Heaven Can Wait," with Don Ameche, will return to the studio in mid-April to prepare for "Laura," based on the novel by Vera Caspary. Otto Preminger will produce. . . . George Hurrell, photographer of film beauties in exotic poses, will play the part of a photographer in his first appearance before the cameras in Jules Levey's "The Hairy Ape" for United Artists release.

•

Monogram has announced "The Soldier, the Bride and the Baby," a Tim Ryan original, for Lindsley Parsons' production schedule. Parsons has changed the title of "Black Widow" to "Leave It to the Irish," now preparing at that studio. . . . Jules Dassin has started direction on Edwin Knopf's "Secrets in the Dark" (formerly "Outward Room") which stars Robert Young with Susan Peters, at M-G-M.

'Song of Russia' Rates Good $11,700

NEW HAVEN, March 2.—"Song of Russia" and "Charlie Chan in Secret Service" dualled for $11,700 at Loew's Poli. At the Paramount the second week of "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and "Minesweeper" grossed $7,200.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 2:

Hara Kiri" (Classic)
"Jeannie" (British)
BIJOU—(1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,600. (Average: $3,600).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
COLLEGE—(1,565) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $3,500).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Charlie Chan in Secret Service" (Mono.)
LOEW'S POLI—(3,005) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $11,700. (Average: $9,000).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
"Minesweeper" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days 2nd week. Gross: $7,200. (Average: $6,400).
"In Our Time" (WB)
"The Falcon and the Coeds" (RKO)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 7 days 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $7,000).

South Pacific to Get 'Tomorrow' Premiere

United Artists will premiere "It Happened Tomorrow" either at Tarawa, New Britain, Bougainville or New Guinea, it was announced here yesterday by U. A.

Arrangements have been made with the Army Overseas Motion Picture Service to fly a 16-mm print of the Arnold Pressburger picture to the South Pacific area. American audiences will not see it until early April.

'Lady in Dark' $38,000 in 3d L.A. Week

LOS ANGELES, March 2.—"Lady in the Dark" headed toward third-week marks of $24,000 and $14,000 at the Downtown and Hollywood Paramounts in spite of bad Saturday-Sunday weather. The Egyptian-Los Angeles-Ritz triad was nearly $8,000 over the combined average with the all-Monogram dual, "Where Are Your Children?" and "Charlie Chan in the Secret Service."

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 1:

"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $6,750. (Average: $11,200).
"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $15,500).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,500).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
FOUR STAR—(900) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $7,570).
"Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
"The Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $6,200).
"What a Woman" (Col.) 3rd week
"Passport to Destiny" (RKO)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $19,700).
"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $24,100).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $14,900).
"What a Woman" (Col.) 3rd week
"Passport to Destiny" (RKO)
PANTAGES — (2,000) (45c-55-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $16,700).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (45c-55-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $20,300).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,700).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 10th week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $16,600).
"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNERS' HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,-[illegible]. (Average: $17,000).
"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNERS' DOWNTOWN — (3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days (2nd week. Gross: $[illegible]. (Average: $18,700).
"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNER'S WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c). Gross: $13,265. (Average: $15,200).

60 More WAC-OWI Industry Subjects

HOLLYWOOD, March 2.—The industry will again produce 26 WAC-Office of War Information shorts, 26 newsreel bulletins and seven or eight trailers promoting various drive campaigns for the year beginning July 1, it was disclosed here following conferences between Stanton Griffis, chief of the motion picture bureau of the OWI, and local WAC coordinator John C. Flinn.

Short subject executives who will undertake the project will be hosts to Griffis at a luncheon tomorrow at Perino's Cafe, when Griffis will outline the new program and discuss topics to be covered.



Official U. S. Navy Photograph

The Navy Commissioned

Kodak Medalist

"as is"

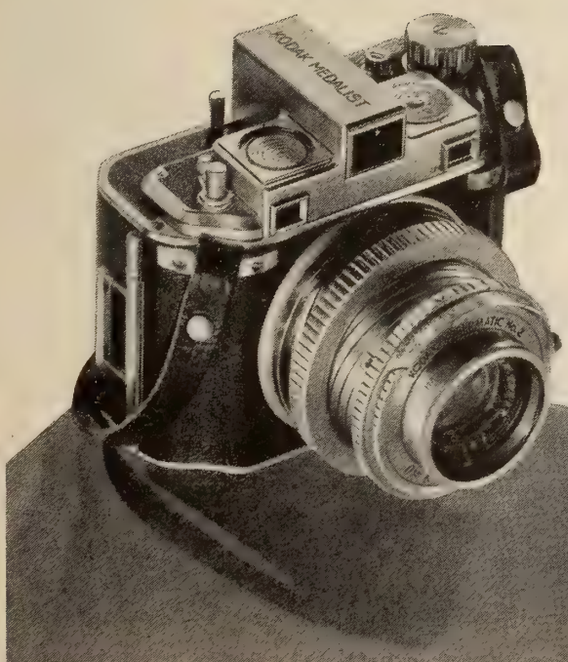
IN THIS WAR, the camera has full military status. From Admirals down, Navy men carry a Kodak Medalist as casually as binoculars. It is the impartial fact-gatherer and reporter of action. You have seen plenty of Medalist shots among the terrific pictures released to newspapers and magazines. But you've only seen a fraction.

* * *

When the war broke, the Medalist had just been created—for civilian camera enthusiasts. Navy experts tried it out. It looked and acted "Navy"—clean, precise, inherently fine—structurally as sound as a battle wagon, compact as a submarine.

The Navy bought every Medalist available "as is," ordered production stepped up. Since then, wherever units of our fleet have operated—from PT boats to capital ships and aircraft—the Medalist has seen action. Twice as many were on duty the second year as the first.

After the war, the battle-conditioned Medalist will be at your service in civilian life. Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N.Y.





A fistful of efficiency, the compact Medalist produces full-scale pictures—2¼ x 3¼ inches. The lens, Kodak Ektar *f*/3.5—incorporating Kodak's revolutionary new optical glass—assures pictures of incomparable clarity and brilliance, either in black and white or full color.

Lens and Kodak Supermatic Shutter are mounted in a unique helical gear focusing tube which provides hairline focusing, with unequaled rigidity. All operating controls, in "shooting" position, are at the fingertips. The eyepiece of the split-field range finder is directly below the view finder.





The Medalist, optically and mechanically, is an achievement of the Kodak experts responsible for the latest gunfire control apparatus used by our armed forces.

REMEMBER "TAKE HER DOWN"? *. . . how the wounded submarine skipper, Commander Howard W. Gilmore, U. S. N., ordered his men to "Take her down"—leaving him outside the conning tower? His was a stern example to us at home.* **BUY MORE WAR BONDS.**

Serving human progress through Photography

All Hollywood has been whispering about it...

All New York will soon be shouting about it...

VOICE IN THE WIND

starring

FRANCIS LEDERER

with SIGRID GURIE · J. EDWARD BROMBERG

J. CARROL NAISH · ALEXANDER GRANACH

Produced by RUDOLPH MONTER · Directed by ARTHUR RIPLEY

Screenplay by FREDERICK TORBERG · Adapted from an original story by ARTHUR RIPLEY

A RIPLEY-MONTER PRODUCTION

RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS

World Premiere

NEW VICTORIA THEATRE on Broadway, March 15th!

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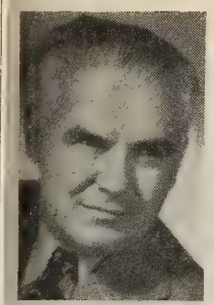
VOL. 55. NO. 45 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1944 TEN CENTS

Blumberg Sees Prosperous Years Ahead

Predicts Continuance of Good Business

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"If the war were to stop tomorrow, the motion picture industry would continue to enjoy five years of the finest business it has done in its history," Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, declared in an interview here at the weekend.



Nate Blumberg

Blumberg confidently based this prediction on the fact that as long as people have money, and they will have with the bonds they own, even if unemployment sets in, they will continue to

(Continued on page 10)

Studio Labor Pact Negotiations Start

Several company presidents, key labor representatives of producers and studio unions heads will attend the conference which starts here today under direction of Pat Casey, producers' labor representative, to work out new labor agreements between the studios and the IATSE. Meetings between the producers and representatives of the Conference of Studio Unions, comprising seven AFL locals, are set to start Friday. Tentatively

(Continued on page 10)

U. S. Seeks Trustee For Schine Houses

BUFFALO, March 5.—The Department of Justice is scheduled to petition the Federal District court here on April 5 for the appointment of a trustee to take supervision of nine Schine Circuit theatres which the latter has been unable to dispose of under the provisions of a court order of May 19, 1942.

At the same time Schine is scheduled to make a counter-motion for relief under the order.

(Continued on page 10)

Dembow Says South Well Organized for Red Cross Campaign

With the San Francisco, Minneapolis and New Orleans local industries touching off their Red Cross campaigns in mass meetings at the weekend, Sam Dembow of the national committee told the latter group, "The South is better organized for this drive than it has ever been before," the War Activities Committee reported here.

Speaking in the Roosevelt Hotel to representatives of more than 60 percent of New Orleans' theatres, Dembow said the area had "a great personal interest in the Red Cross because so many of its sons are in the thick of the fight on every front." He predicted that the South would break all records for theatre collections.

On the dais, with Maurice Barr, WAC coordinator presiding, were Ralph Nicholson, chairman of the

(Continued on page 10)

Para. Sets 6,003 3rd Block Deals

Paramount's third block of features for 1943-44 have been sold to 6,003 independent theatres in the first seven weeks of selling, Neil Agnew, vice-president in charge of distribution, announces. This tops the sixth block of 1942-43, which previously held the record for sales to independents during the corresponding period, he said.

Independent deals for the first three blocks of 1943-44 now total 22,706, Agnew stated, as compared with 18,698 for 1942-43, and with 11,071 for 1941-42. This is an increase, to date, of 4,008 over last year and 11,635, or 105 percent, over two years ago.

Ky. Budget Beaten; Old Tax May Stand

Frankfort, Ky., March 5.—A possibility that the bill calling for a 10 percent increase over the present 10 percent state tax on admissions may not be passed at this term of the Kentucky Legislature now looms as a result of Senate action at the weekend which defeated the budget bill that incorporated provision for building new tuberculosis sanitoriums, the purpose for which the theatre revenue was to be used.

Setay-Republic Nets $309,062; CFI, $578,338

Setay Co., Inc., whose sole asset is 99½ per cent of Republic Pictures Corp. and its subsidiaries, had a net profit of $309,062, after taxes for the six months ended Oct. 31, 1943. Net profit before tax provisions of $225,000 was $534,062. Because of a change last year in the company's fiscal year no comparative earning figure is available.



H. J. Yates

Net income from film rentals for the six months was $5,977,816,

(Continued on page 11)

"Cover Girl"

[*Columbia*]

"COVER GIRL" is an eye-full of opulent entertainment, lavishly dressed and staged, rich in Technicolor and equally rich in its promises for exhibitor and patron. It is generous with the music of Jerome Kern and with Ira Gershwin lyrics. Generous, too, with the pleasant singing and the captivating dancing of Rita Hayworth, Gene Kelly and Phil Silvers.

And that's not nearly all. Producer Arthur Schwartz has adorned every nook and cranny of his lavish vehicle with girls, some of whose dancing is to be watched, some whose singing is to be listened to; some, such as the Harry Conover magazine cover models, just to be looked at—but all of whom are what one might describe as decorative without being accused of over-enthusiasm. Besides, all of these females wear clothes, and Hollywood-designed clothes look good enough in Technicolor nowadays to make a completely satisfying divertissement in them-

(Continued on page 3)

Use of Present Tickets Will Be Permitted

Over-Stamping Makes Them Valid for Tax

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Exhibitors having present-type tickets on hand on April 1, when the new Federal admission tax goes into effect, will not have to discard them, provided they can be over-stamped to show the new rate, it was disclosed tonight by U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau officials. A ruling to this effect is expected to be issued in the near future.

Where tickets are used which cannot be overstamped, exhibitors will be permitted to use their present type until they can secure a supply of prop-

(Continued on page 11)

Wolcott Cites Tax Collection Details

DES MOINES, March 5.—Leo F. Wolcott, president of Allied-Independent Theatre Owners of Iowa-Nebraska, has called a special tax meeting of his organization at Babe's Restaurant here tomorrow to acquaint exhibitors with the increased admission tax. Tax experts will explain how exhibitors can facilitate tax handling, Wolcott said. The board of directors will meet immediately after.

In a bulletin to exhibitors, Wolcott impresses that the tax is imposed upon the buyer, not the seller, and, consequently, should be passed on to the public. It urges showmen to start advertising new price scales now, in order to accustom the public to in-

(Continued on page 10)

Smith Names Four Vice-Presidents

TOLEDO, O., March 5.—Martin G. Smith, president of National Allied, has appointed four regional vice-presidents: Eastern, Irving Dollinger, Linden, N. J., a new appointee; Central, Ray Branch, Hastings, Mich., re-appointed; Midwest, Jack Kirsch, Chicago, re-appointed, and Southwest, Col. H. A. Cole, Dallas, new appointee. Under the last regime, headed by M. A. Rosenberg of Pittsburgh, the vice-presidents included Joseph F. Reed, Connecticut, and Roy Harold, Indianapolis, besides Branch and Kirsch.


"IT WILL CREATE A SENSATION"—Film Daily "POW
MOST DRAMATIC EPISODES IN THE HISTORY OF THI

20th Ce

TAKES THE BIGGEST TRADE A

TIME

THE STORY OF EIGHT AMERICAN FLIERS—CAPTUR
OF VALOR THAT BEGAN WITH THE BOMBIN

CRU

Personal Mention

N. PETER RATHVON, RKO president, is expected to arrive here today from the Coast.

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GEORGE PRUETT, formerly of Paramount's Atlanta exchange, has been promoted from lieutenant to captain in the Army Air Forces, while LEONARD NEWMAN, formerly in the company's home office production legal department, has been made a second lieutenant in the Air Corps.

•

JACK PARVER, manager of the Eastwood Theatre, East Hartford, Conn., is in New York on a brief vacation. JOSEPH QUITTNER, co-owner of Quittner and Perakos Theatres of Connecticut, is substituting for him.

•

RUDOLPH BERGER, M-G-M Washington district manager, and JOHN ALLEN, M-G-M branch manager in that territory, will attend the company "war effort" meeting in Chicago on March 11.

•

JACK CARTER, manager of the Newsreel Theatre, Baltimore, will leave the end of this week for Los Angeles, where he will be inducted into the Army.

•

SAM HARRIS, co-owner of the State Theatre, Hartford, has entered the Hartford Hospital due to a stomach ailment.

•

RUBE JACKTER, Columbia assistant general sales manager, will return to New York today after three weeks in Florida.

•

LOUIS B. MAYER and HOWARD STRICKLING are scheduled to arrive in New York today from the Coast via Washington.

•

S. S. KRELLBERG, independent film distributor, was in Lakewood over the weekend.

•

CORP. ROBERT K. WHEELER, formerly with Warner Theatres, Chicago, is now in Honolulu.

•

MAX COHEN, Monticello theatre operator, was in town last week.

Ohio Unit Reelects Huss and Bernstein

CINCINNATI, March 5.—F. W. Huss, Jr., vice-president of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, has been reelected president, and Harold Bernstein, secretary-treasurer of the Greater Cincinnati Independent Exhibitors League, founded in 1918. Louis Weithe was elected vice-president, succeeding A. J. Holt, who declined reelection because of ill health.

The Indignant Exhibitors Forum, organized here more than a year ago, and which has been without any particular affiliation, has been made an affiliate of the Greater Cincinnati Independent unit. Willis Vance remains as chairman.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

ONE of the most definite and interesting results of MOTION PICTURE DAILY's recent nationwide interviews with exhibitors concerning the proposals for an amended consent decree was the frequency with which theatre owners either disclaimed interest in a decree or asserted their outright belief that the fundamental problems within exhibition and distribution cannot be solved by a decree.

Expressions of this kind came from exhibitors representing a large cross-section of theatre operation and of exhibitor organization affiliation. The individual views of many, as expressed to MOTION PICTURE DAILY correspondents, are in direct conflict with the views on the decree proposals expressed by the organizations of which they are members to the Department of Justice. This is not surprising in view of the fact, thoroughly documented by the interviews and by obvious circumstances, that many of the organizations never did give to their rank-and-file membership copies of the decree proposals and, moreover, presented their decree views to Washington without even discussing those proposals with the membership. Meanwhile, the only *other* avenue through which organized rank-and-file exhibitors, and the *only* avenue through which unorganized exhibitors, could learn of the decree proposals—the trade press—had been denied the right to publish the draft by the Department of Justice.

• •

It is no wonder then that those organizations which go to such pains to dissuade their membership from discussing such topics as decree proposals with trade press representatives, now find their views on this important subject at variance with the views of at least a segment of their membership. We cannot say with any certainty how large that segment is, but if there is validity to any "sampling" process then the exhibitor interviews in our possession would indicate that it is by no means a small segment of organized exhibitor membership.

It is impossible to get an intelligent man, or an unintelligent man of integrity, either to remain silent on subjects of the utmost importance to his business and himself, or to say that he agrees with you when he doesn't even know what you're talking about. That should be remembered by those organization officials who have endeavored to restrain their members from expressing their views for publication in the trade press .

• •

Incidentally, we noted last week that the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners called a meeting for a discussion of consent decree proposals, among other things, with its membership. Aren't you a bit tardy, boys? It was the general impression within the industry that the PCCITO had concluded its consideration of the proposals when it submitted its views on them to the Department of Justice on Feb. 9.

• •

A more or less general impression in New York is that Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, will explore with J. Arthur Rank, if he has not done so already, the possibilities of 20th-Fox handling physical distribution of Rank's Eagle-Lion releases in America. The reciprocal angle, the dopesters point out, could be Rank's collaboration with 20th-Fox on the latter's production activities in Britain. It's no easy matter to make a picture there nowadays, and Rank does have production facilities.

The advantages of accessibility to already established physical distribution in this market must be apparent to Rank. When MOTION PICTURE DAILY queried Arthur W. Kelly, head of Eagle-Lion, here recently on the practicability of establishing a distribution system in the face of manpower, equipment and other wartime problems, Kelly's only answer was to point out a sentence in a cable he had just received from Rank. The sentence was: "The impossible we do at once; miracles take a little longer."

That, of course, does not answer the question. All it does is display awareness of the problem and a hopeful attitude in facing it.

Leading distribution executives here will tell you that the mere maintenance of an established distribution organization under wartime conditions is problem enough. To undertake the formation of a complete distribution organization in these times is clearly in the realm of what Rank himself refers to as "the impossible."

Coast Flashes

ERNST LUBITSCH and Joseph L. Mankiewicz have formed a producing alliance within 20th-Fox. Lubitsch will make "The Czarina" from a Mankiewicz script, and Mankiewicz will direct "Dragonwyck" for Lubitsch.

•

Executive producer Sol M. Wurtzel will leave 20th-Fox when his contract expires May 5. His future plans have not been specified.

•

Jack Benny has signed a term contract with Warners.

To Honor R. S. Wolff At Dinner March 21

Robert S. Wolff will be given a testimonial dinner by theatre owners of the New York area at the Waldorf-Astoria on Tuesday, March 21. The gathering will honor Wolff before his departure for England to become managing director of RKO of Great Britain. It will be informal and will be a mixed gathering.

Harry Brandt is chairman and treasurer, and David Weinstock is chairman of the arrangements committee. The general committee consists of Edward L. Alperson, Leo Brecher, Max Cohen, Ned Depinet, Si Fabian, Harry Hecht, Don Jacocks, Gilbert Josephson, Julius Joelson, Harry Lowenstein, Louis Nizer, Ralph Pielow, Walter Reade, Sam Rinzler, Herman Robbins, Leon Rosenblatt, Edward Rugoff, Fred J. Schwartz, Joseph Seider, Abe Shenk, Charles Steiner, Samuel Strausberg, Robert M. Weitman and William White.

New Charity Group May Elect This Week

The Motion Picture Charity Fund, recently chartered at Albany, N. Y., may meet this week to elect officers and lay plans for financially assisting needy persons in the industry.

Temporary directors are Si Fabian, Edmund C. Grainger, Charles C. Moskowitz, Lester Thompson and Walter Vincent. The organization would provide for not less than three nor more than five directors and aid handicapped, under-privileged, ill, destitute or otherwise needy persons and their families.

Taylor, Associates Buy in Canadian PRC

TORONTO, March 5.—N. A. Taylor and associates have acquired stock in PRC, Ltd., Canadian distributor of which H. J. Allen is president and general manager.

Taylor also has been elected director and secretary-treasurer of the company.

Hudson in City Post

DETROIT, March 5.—Earl J. Hudson, president of United Detroit Theatres, has been named a member of the municipal board of street railway commissioners by Mayor Edward J. Jeffries. Hudson is also state chairman of the industry's Red Cross campaign.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

War Dept. Denies Withholding Films

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Charges made by David Oliver, Pathe war correspondent, that Army authorities here are withholding from American newsreels more than half the war footage being shot by American newsreel-men in England and Europe are denied and will be answered soon in a detailed report which the War Department is now preparing, it was learned at the weekend.

(Oliver's statement, made in a press interview upon his return from overseas and carried in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Feb. 23, was disavowed to the DAILY in New York Friday by Walter Ament, head of Pathe. He said that, "upon investigation Oliver discovered that not nearly as much of his film had been withheld as he first thought and that his clips did not appear in newsreels because their relative value had not stood up in comparison with film available from other theatres of war.")

Public Can Judge

The War Department report, to be released by Col. Curtis P. Mitchell, chief of the pictorial section, will enable the public and the industry to judge for themselves how the War Department is meeting the desire of the country to see complete coverage of military operations, it was said. In the early part of the war and up to a year ago, Col. Mitchell admitted, a considerable portion of newsreels was withheld, but only a negligible amount is now held, he said.

Planning for the picture coverage of the coming European invasion has progressed to the point where a definite set-up for distribution of pool cameramen at points where they can be most effectively used has been arranged to the satisfaction of both the newsreel companies and the Department, it was learned.

Para., WB Lawyers to Atlanta on Weis Case

Louis Phillips, Paramount attorney, and Howard Levinson, Warner lawyer, left for Atlanta at the weekend for final preparations of the defense of their companies in the $218,000 damage suit brought by Fred Weis, operator of the Savannah Theatre, Savannah, Ga., against Lucas and Jenkins and the eight major companies. The trial is scheduled to start in Atlanta next Monday.

Weis alleges unfair practices by Lucas and Jenkins, which made it necessary for him to abandon a theatre building project in Savannah.

Attorneys to Connecticut For Anti-Trust Case

Attorneys of four major companies left for New Haven over the weekend for the trial of the $5,000,000 anti-trust suit against Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, RKO and others filed in Federal court by Fairfield Holding Corp. and Greenfield, Inc., which gets underway there tomorrow.

Those in New Haven include Richard Morgan, Paramount; John Caskey, 20th-Fox; Harry Pimstein, RKO, and Stanley Thompson and Benjamin Melniker for Loew's. J. F. Berry, Hartford attorney, will work with them.

"Cover Girl"

(Continued from page 1)

selves for a lot of other females, many of them without access to theatre passes.

AND then there is a story. Not a heavyweight one, lumbering around and getting in the way of high-priced singing and dancing talent, but a nice, fluffy little yarn about a talented night club entertainer who wins a magazine cover-girl contest and then has to fight off fame and a Broadway producer who wants to marry her besides dedicating a theatre to her, and a rich, old magazine publisher who had been jilted by the girl's grandmother because she, too, had preferred love to fame and fortune, before our heroine can really settle down in her cozy, little Brooklyn night club with the proprietor, who happens to be her heart trouble. But the tale is enacted with enough sincerity and informal charm in the correct sequences to convince the onlooker that it would be pretty tough if those two swell kids, Miss Hayworth and Kelly, didn't finally get together, despite all that those awful rich people do to keep them apart.

Lee Bowman is the Broadway producer who would spirit the gal away from her Brooklyn Romeo, even if he has to marry her to do it; Otto Kruger is the magazine publisher who would help him make Brooklyn's loss Broadway's gain. Others to be encountered in the cast, not forgetting the 14 cover girls and their tabloid edition, little Cheryl Archibald, are: Jinx Falkenburg, Leslie Brooks, Eve Arden and Thurston Hall.

STORY credits go to Virginia Van Upp for her screenplay, Marion Parsonett and Paul Gangelin for the adaptation, and Erwin Gelsey for story. The impressive and neatly linked-together production owes much to Charles Vidor's direction, to the musical direction of M. W. Stoloff; to Val Raset's and Seymour Felix's dance numbers and to all those responsible for the distinguished technical and special craft's contributions. Norman Deming is down as assistant to the producer, and Oscar Boetticher, Jr., as assistant director.

Some of the best of the Gershwin lyrics are: "Long Ago," "Put Me to the Test," "Who's Complaining?," "Sure Thing" and "Make Way for Tomorrow." Fred W. Leigh and Henry E. Pether contributed another diverting number entitled "Poor John!"

Well, if you still think you haven't a swell show here, you'd better put it up to your customers anyhow. Our money says they'll go for it. But big.

Running time, 107 mins. "G."* Release date, April 6.

SHERWIN KANE

*"G" denotes general classification.

W.B. Home Office Field Staffs Meet

First session of a meeting of Warner field public relations staffs and theatre zone advertising men will open this morning at the home office with a discussion of the campaign for "The Adventures of Mark Twain."

Following individual conferences between Mort Blumenstock and field exploitation men and Harry Goldberg and his advertising men, the two groups will attend a screening of "Mark Twain." This afternoon there will be a joint session in which the handling of that picture will be discussed. Speakers will include Joseph Bernhard, Harry M. Kalmine, Jesse L. Lasky and Gil Golden, in addition to Blumenstock and Goldberg.

New Haven Plans Admission Rise

NEW HAVEN, March 5.—Downtown houses, it is understood, will adopt a 60-cent evening admission price as a result of the new Federal tax; current price is 50 cents in all downtown theatres, except the Paramount, which charges 55 cents.

An anticipated increase in children's prices is also reported. Admissions, now ranging from 11 to 17 cents, will probably be raised to 20 cents for matinee and 30 cents for evenings.

'Post-War' Will Get Organizations' Aid

March of Time here reported at the weekend that "Post-War Jobs?" its latest release, will receive promotional cooperation from the following:

U. S. Agriculture Department's Interbureau Coordinating Committee on Post-War Programs; American Association of University Women, AFL, American Friends Service Committee, American Planning and Civic Association, U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Federal Security Agency, U. S. Office of Education, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Foreign Policy Association, The Grange, U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Lions, National Association of Manufacturers and Re-employment Division of Selective Service System.

'Lost Angel', Show Bring Good $24,500

PITTSBURGH, March 5.—Coming in a week of bang-up holdovers, "Lost Angel," along with a stage bill with Johnny Long's orchestra and Hal LeRoy, gave the Stanley a clear lead with a promised $24,500 here.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 29-Mar. 2:

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,100).

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
HARRIS—(2,400) (35c-44c-60c) 4 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,500).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $19,800).

"The Desert Song" (WB)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover after one week at the Penn, one at the Warner. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $2,700).

"Footlight Glamour" (Col.)
"There's Something About a Soldier" (Col.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $3,600. (Average: $3,400).

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
STANLEY—(3,800) (35c-60c-75c). On stage, 6 days of vaudeville, including Johnny Long's orchestra and Hal LeRoy. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $20,900).

"Frisco Kid" (WB reissue)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $8,500).

'Cover Girl' Gets 30 Pre-release Bookings

Columbia at the weekend reported that more than 30 pre-release engagements have been set nationally for "Cover Girl," starting March 22 in the following situations prior to national release on April 6: Portland, Me.; Lawrence, Mass.; Providence, Waterbury, Boston, Worcester, Rochester, Syracuse, New Haven, Bridgeport, Lawton, Okla.; Indianapolis, Louisville, Kansas City, Washington, Springfield, Ill.; Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, St. Paul, Salt Lake City, Columbus, Nashville, Springfield, Mass.; Detroit, Hartford, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Reading, Easton, and Bethlehem, Pa.

Jimmie Davis Nominated

NEW ORLEANS, March 5.—James H. (Jimmie) Davis, Universal Western player and author of 300 jukebox songs, last week won the Democratic nomination for governor of Louisiana, defeating Lewis L. Morgan, candidate of the Huey Long dynasty, by 37,000 votes. Davis, a former history professor at Dodd College, also has been police commissioner of Shreveport. He appeared in "Riding Through Nevada" last year.

Lou Chapman Feted

Lou Chapman, advertising production manager for Quigley Publications, was given a farewell party by his co-workers on Saturday night. He will leave for the Army Thursday.



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EVER TO SHOUT ABOUT THE

INESS

THE JAPS—AND TRIED FOR MURDER! AN EPIC

TOKYO—AND ONLY NOW CAN BE

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DANA ANDREWS · RICHARD CONTE · FARLE

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SAM LEVENE · CHARLES RUSSELL · JOHN

TALA BIRELL · RICHARD LOO · PETER

Directed by LEWIS MILES

WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN BY JEROME CAD

From a Story by Melville Crossman TECHNICAL ADVISER OTTO

FROM 20th *CENTURY*

Dembow Says South Well Organized for Red Cross Campaign

(*Continued from page* 1)

citizens committee of the Red Cross 1944 War Fund; Mrs. Charles F. Buck, chairman of the Theatre Volunteer Workers; Mrs. Philip Werlein, chairman of the women's division; E. A. Landaiche, local distributor chairman, and Lt. Charles Armbruster, U. S. Army Air Force hero of the Mediterranean and Italian campaigns.

The Minneapolis meeting, at the Hotel Nicollet, was addressed by W. H. Workman, local WAC distributor chairman; John Friedl, local exhibitor chairman, and E. L. Alperson, Ben Kalmenson and Ben Shlyen of the national industry Red Cross traveling group. Harry Brandt and Ned Depinet were the national representatives in San Francisco, where Al Shmitken, local distributor chairman, and B. V. Sturdivant, exhibitor chairman, also spoke.

Red Cross Executive Cites Value of Films

DETROIT, March 5.—James B. Gilbert, Red Cross field director, addressing 15 representatives of film exchanges in a campaign meeting here this week, said that, "Next to mail, motion pictures give soldiers overseas the greatest uplifts in morale. I have seen groups of soldiers sitting in mud and rain to see a motion picture. These pictures take their minds from their hardships, reproduce for them in many instances scenes of their homeland, and of course greatly entertain them when they need wholesome diversion."

Union Pledges $10,000

CHICAGO, March 5.—Members of projectionists' Local No. 110 have pledged $10,000 to the Red Cross drive, it was announced here by Gene Atkinson, business manager.

Studio Labor Pact Negotiations Start

(*Continued from page* 1)

set for next Monday or Tuesday in Newark are conferences between representatives of seven other AFL international unions, signatories of the studio basic labor agreement.

Expected to attend today's meetings for the producers are Nicholas Schenck, Barney Balaban, N. Peter Rathvon, Jack Cohn, Nate Blumberg, Joseph Hazen and William Michaels. Producers' studio labor representatives will include: A. H. McCausland, Universal; Fred S. Meyer, 20th-Fox; William R. Walsh and Fred Gabourie, M-G-M and Fred Pelton, assistant to Casey, as well as Victor H. Clark of Casey's staff, among others.

Studio labor groups will be represented by Richard F. Walsh, IATSE international president, and Harold V. Smith, Herbert Sorrell, Herbert Aler, L. H. Helm, H. C. Rohrback, John Martin, Norval Crutcher and others.

Russian 'Heroes' Premiere

"Heroes Are Made," produced by Kiev and Ashkhabad Films in Russia and distributed here by Artkino, will have its American premiere at the Stanley, New York, next Friday.

'U's Blumberg Predicts Prosperity in Post-War

(*Continued from page* 1)

seek film entertainment. "The greatest pictures in history are being made today," he said. Despite the losses in personnel to the armed forces, the industry is doing an outstanding production job. "Production is costly now," he stated, "but grosses are such that they can absorb negative costs."

"The industry's greatest and most far-reaching work" Blumberg said, "was the mobilization of all its resources in supporting the Fourth War Loan drive, the March of Dimes campaign and the Red Cross drive almost simultaneously." "It marks the first time that all branches of the industry and allied groups, including the labor unions, were brought together," he added.

Lauds *Liberty* Article

"The industry needn't have an inferiority complex about its job in the war effort," Blumberg remarked. He made no secret of his enthusiasm for a Gretta Palmer article appearing in *Liberty* magazine several weeks ago and featured in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 10, dealing with Hollywood's job in the war effort. "It is one of the finest articles ever done on Hollywood, since everybody usually goes out to criticize the production community," he stated. He revealed that he had sent copies of the article to all Universal directors.

"Whereas other nations are paying millions of dollars to subsidize their film industries, Hollywood is doing a job which sends its product into the world markets to command more than 85 per cent of their playing time as a privately financed industry," Blumberg declared, in citing the extent of the American film industry's activities. It took the war and the industry's participation in the war effort to unify the industry and get the various elements to understand each other, he believes.

Discussing Universal's future plans and policies in production, Blumberg stated that the company will continue to produce diversified pictures whose sole function will be entertainment. "Universal pictures will advocate no 'isms' but Americanism," he said. "If you get entertainment into your pictures you'll always do business."

Stating that the entire entertainment world has been too modest in citing its contributions to the war effort, Blumberg disclosed that the forthcoming Universal film, "Follow the Boys," pays tribute to the activities of the entertainment world in the war effort. "It represents the first time," he said, "that an attempt has been made to show what the amusement industry is doing in the war effort. It is show business' tribute to show business and cites the work of the Hollywood Victory Committee in addition to recounting the history of vaudeville."

Public Makes Stars

Universal's current post-war thinking conforms to the tradition of the company with new ideas and new people being sought at all times, Blumberg declared. "The public, and not Hollywood, discovers new stars," he said, citing the case of Abbott and Costello.

Universal will deliver all the pictures it promised for 1943-44, according to Blumberg, with the possible exception of three Abbott and Costello films. Illness of Costello has occasioned this, but the pair plan to start working on a new Universal film in mid-June, which should be ready for release as part of the 1943-44 product.

Blumberg will participate in the producers' labor negotiations which get underway here today. He will be here for a couple of months in line with his custom of spending half his time in New York.

Gus Boudot to UA; Seibert Joins RKO

CINCINNATI, March 5.—Changes in local branch office personnel include the appointment of Gus Boudot as office manager for United Artists, effective tomorrow. Boudot, recently with the Shard circuit, was formerly booker and office manager for RKO.

Louis Seibert, formerly National Screen Service office manager here, has been appointed to a similar post at the RKO local branch, succeeding Fred Strief, who resigned to reenter exhibition.

Poole and Bruen Are Reelected by PCCITO

LOS ANGELES, March 5.—The trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, here in a three-day session ending at the weekend, reelected Robert H. Poole executive secretary and Hugh Bruen treasurer.

Action taken by Poole and his special committee in opposing certain of the majors' consent decree proposals was ratified. The next meeting will be held at Portland, Ore., in May.

To End Jackson Park Testimony This Week

CHICAGO, March 5.—Examination of witnesses and final arguments in the trial of the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust suit against the major distributors and Balaban and Katz are expected to be finished by Wednesday.

Testimony for the defense was heard at the weekend from seven exchange representatives: Walter Branson, RKO Western sales manager; Sid Rose, United Artists branch manager; Harold Wirthwein, former local South Side salesman who is now Paramount's Milwaukee branch manager; and salesmen Joe Cozzi of RKO, Harold Loeb of 20th-Fox, Harry Mandel of Warners and Gene Smith of Paramount.

Harvey Barron, office manager for Warner Brothers Theatres, stated that the Jeffrey Theatre's bank-night receipts in 1936 totaled $222,500, while in 1937, without bank nights, the gross was $1,000 lower each week.

Felcher to Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, March 5.—Ben Felcher of the Paramount home office is now booker with the exchange here.

Wolcott Cites Tax Collection Details

(*Continued from page* 1)

creased admissions, which become effective April 1.

Wolcott stated that except for rates, the 1941 U. S. Revenue Law under which theatres operate, will remain unchanged. Basic provisions are:

"Children under 12 where admission is less than 10c, are U. S. tax exempt. Ticket must read "Child under 12" and show price.

"Reduced rate tickets, such as students' tickets, must carry the same U. S. tax as full rate admissions.

"Men of the U. S. services, in uniform, may be admitted free without tax. Or, if admitted at reduced rates, the tax is based on such reduced rate.

"All others, except municipal officials on duty, if admitted free or at reduced rates (passes, etc.) must pay the full U. S. tax based on the established price.

Taxable Tickets

"On all tickets that are taxable, the name of the theatre or place, city and state, established price, amount of tax(es) and total must be printed thereon, and tickets must be serially numbered. (From 1 to 50,000, after which they may be started again at 1 by using a prefix letter. (Box office admission signs must be conspicuously posted in the box office and must plainly show the established price, amount of tax(es) and total."

The bulletin advised exhibitors to open a separate bank account for the tax money which they collect for the Government and hold until the end of the month. It pledged support to the industry tax council now in process of formation.

U. S. Seeks Trustee For Schine Houses

(*Continued from page* 1)

Robert L. Wright, Assistant U. S. Attorney General, charges in the petition that the houses in question are deteriorating and in "rather deplorable condition." They are: the Strand, Cumberland, Md.; State and Appalachia, Appalachia, Va.; Plaza, Malone, N. Y.; Liberty, Pikeville, Ky.; Ada Meade, Corbin, Ky.; Opera House, Lexington, Ky.; Memorial, Mt. Vernon, O., and a 50 percent interest in the leasehold of the Margie Grand, Harlan, Ky.

Ray Johnston to Boston

BOSTON, March 5.—W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram, will be guest at a luncheon here tomorrow, given by Herman Rifkin, Monogram New England franchise holder, on the occasion of Johnston's 30th anniversary in the industry. "Lady, Let's Dance" will be previewed.

Comerford Wage Rise

PHILADELPHIA, March 5.—The Regional War Labor Board here has approved a wage increase for 130 union employes of Comerford theatres in upstate Pennsylvania, retroactive to Oct. 1.

Hickey to 20th-Fox

MILWAUKEE, March 5.—Ed Hickey, publicity manager for Fox-Wisconsin Amusement Corp., has resigned to join the exploitation department of 20th Century-Fox.

Robb & Rowley in Two-Year 'U' Deal

Dallas, March 5.—The Robb & Rowley Circuit, with headquarters here, has closed a two-year product deal with Universal, it was learned today. The circuit and the company failed to get together on a deal for several consecutive seasons prior to this. The circuit also closed with United Artists for its current five releases.

Will Permit Use Of Present Tickets

(*Continued from page* 1)

erly printed tickets, but will be required to post the amount of new tax and total admission prominently.

The Bureau is seeking to minimize the impact of the change-over on exhibitors and will allow them to use all present-type tickets in their possession provided they can be over-stamped. Tickets which cannot be so treated, however, will have to be discarded as soon as a new supply can be procured.

Bureau officials said that new regulations will shortly be issued to cover the new tax, but that there will be no change of any importance to exhibitors. It is expected that about the only changes made in the present regulations will be the substitution of the term "one cent on each five cents or major fraction thereof" where now appears "one cent on each 10 cents or fraction thereof."

No further moves are expected to be made by the Treasury this year toward the introduction of any licensing system for ticket printers, it was said. Officials explained that such a provision has been given consideration, but would have to be incorporated in revenue legislation and it is not believed that Congress will make any move in that direction this session.

'Jack London', Show, $18,000 in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, March 5.—"Jack London," plus Glen Gray and his orchestra on the stage at the Riverside, looks like a big $18,000. Runner-up is "Government Girl" at the Warner with $15,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 3:

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Nobody's Darling" (Rep.)
WISCONSIN—(3,200) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $13,000).

"Rationing" (M-G-M)
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
PALACE—(2,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $9,250. (Average: $9,500).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
STRAND—(1,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week downtown. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,000).

"Government Girl" (RKO)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
WARNER—(2,400) (44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000).

"In Our Time" (WB)
"Weekend Pass" (Univ.)
ALHAMBRA—(1,900) (44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week downtown. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,000).

"Jack London" (UA)
RIVERSIDE—(2,700) (44c-50c-75c) 7 days, plus Glen Gray and his Casa Loma orchestra on the stage. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,000).

Setay-Republic Nets $309,062; CFI, $578,338

(*Continued from page* 1)

less amortization of films costs which were $3,798,997, leaving a net income from film rentals of $2,178,818. Gross operating profit amounted to $2,211,509.

Selling, administrative and general expenses were $1,483,773. Consolidated companies' surplus as of Oct. 31, 1943, amounted to $1,366,869.

Eighty-five per cent of production costs allocated to domestic and Canadian distribution is written off 30 weeks after release and the remaining 15 per cent within the succeeding 35 weeks.

Total current assets of Setay were $6,427,587, compared to total current liabilities of $6,266,605. Goodwill and residual value of completely amortized released productions were listed at $1,250,000. Total assets were $8,765,543.

H. J. Yates Reports

In a report to stockholders of Consolidated Film Industries, also issued at the weekend, Herbert J. Yates, CFI president, disclosed details of Consolidated's 1943 exchange of its stock of Republic Pictures Corp. and Cajo Co., Inc. It represented an exchange of 67 per cent of the outstanding stock of Republic for 195,442 shares of Setay Co., Inc., representing 67 per cent of the outstanding stock of Setay. As Setay owns over 99½ per cent of the outstanding stock of Republic Pictures, Republic still is, indirectly, a 67 per cent subsidiary of CFI. Setay has no assets except the stock of Republic and has no liabilities.

Yates also revealed in the Consolidated report that income from distribution of Republic pictures from Oct. 31, 1943 to March 1, 1944, has been in excess of income for the corresponding period ending March 1, 1943 and is expected to continue favorably for the remainder of its fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1944.

He also told Consolidated stockholders that the loan indebtedness of Republic and subsidiaries to Consolidated as of Dec. 31, 1943, was $3,728,535, compared with $4,269,094 as of Dec. 31, 1942, showing a reduction for 1943 in the amount of $540,558. This corporation continues to make loans to Republic to finance the cost of production and distribution of its pictures, secured by such pictures, the income from distribution, and by real estate and chattel mortgages on the studio property, equipment, machinery and fixtures of Republic, Yates said.

Consolidated 1943 Net Was $578,338, says Yates

Net income of Consolidated Film Industries for 1943 was $578,338, after all charges and taxes, against a 1942 net of $504,351, Herbert J. Yates, CFI president, reported to stockholders at the weekend.

The 1943 net income was equivalent to $1.44½ per share on the 400,000 shares of preferred stock outstanding. Net earnings in 1942 were equivalent to $1.26 per share on the same number of shares of preferred.

The above net is after provision of $585,000 for estimated Federal taxes and renegotiation of war contracts, and deductions for other Federal, state and local taxes in New York, New Jersey, California and Pennsylvania.

Consolidated's net sales for 1943 were $9,465,337 and cost of operations totaled $8,302,832, leaving a $1,162,505 profit from sales. The company reported $373,221 from other income. Consolidated earned surplus as of Dec. 31, 1943, was $4,398,669.

Consolidated had current assets of $7,365,827 at the year-end, against current liabilities of $1,061,247. Goodwill and patent rights were listed at $1. Total assets were $12,186,670.

'Seabees' Is Strong $15,000 in Providence

PROVIDENCE, March 5.—"The Fighting Seabees," playing a strong Seabee town, hit a nice $15,000 at the Strand Theatre and was held over. "A Guy Named Joe" got $18,000 in its second week at Loew's State.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 2:

"The Sultan's Daughter" (Mono.)
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average, $12,800)

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average, $10,500)

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average, $17,700)

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days Gross: $12,000. (Average, $12,100)

"Happy Land" (20th-Fox)
"Week End Pass" (Univ.)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Moveover from Majestic. Gross: $4,100. (Average, $4,000)

"Pride of the Plains" (Rep.)
FAY'S (1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On the stage: Hugo Martinelli, Zarin-Zoska, Jimmy Husson, Three Welles, Jay Howard. Gross: $7,000. (Average, $6,500)

"Silent Barriers" (G. B.)
METROPOLITAN — (3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Louis Prima and Band. Gross: $8,000. (Average, $7,900)

'Tender Comrade' Hits Record $10,600

OMAHA, March 5.—Previous records were buried as the 1,200-seat Brandeis hung up a new high of $10,600 on "Tender Comrade" and "Swing Out the Blues."

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 1-2:

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (40c-55c) 8 days. Gross: $10,600. (Average: $6,900).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. ((Average: $7,900).

"Always a Bridesmaid" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. George White's Scandals on the stage. Gross: $18,100. (Average: $14,900).

"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
Gross: $8,500. (Average: $11,700).
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 7 days.

Matsoukas Aids Benefit

Nick Matsoukas, director of the war-effort department of Skouras Theatres here, has been named liaison radio director of the "Show of Shows" benefit to be held at Madison Square Garden on March 13, sponsored by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

Ethel Waters, Perry Como, Beatrice Kay, Garry Moore, Joan Edwards and Mary Small have been added to the cast of the benefit.

See Record $65,000 for 'Bernadette'

CHICAGO, March 5.—First three days of the Midwest roadshow premiere of "The Song of Bernadette," added to four days of "Madame Curie," boosted receipts at the State-Lake theatre to $40,000 and is expected to hit a record $65,000 for a full week. "Gung Ho" was second high of single Loop runs, getting $34,000 at the Palace.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 4:

"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
"Minesweeper" (Para.)
APOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,400).

"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
CHICAGO—(3,850) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Woody Herman and orchestra. Gross: $48,000. (Average: $51,500).

"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,100).

"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
"The Sultan's Daughter" (Mono.)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $9,100).

"The Woman of the Town" (UA)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days. Stage: Dante the magician. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $24,000).

"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
PALACE—(2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $34,000. (Average: $24,000).

"Desert Song" (WB)
ROOSEVELT — (1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $20,400).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M) 4 days, 7th week.

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox) 3 days.
STATE-LAKE — (2,700) (50c-65c-75c-85c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $40,000. (Average: $29,000).

"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $20,200).

"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.) and "Revenge of the Zombies" (Mono.) 3 days, 2nd week. "Crime School" (WB) and "Girls on Probation" (WB) 4 days.
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,000).

'Ali Baba' Hits Big $21,000 at 3 Houses

KANSAS CITY, March 5.—A heavy snowfall all day Monday nipped extra high grosses. Top gross went to "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," the total at three theatres, the Esquire, Uptown and Fairway being estimated at $21,000. "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" is bringing the Newman an estimated $18,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 3:

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average, $5,500)

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average, $14,000)

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
NEWMAN — (1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average, $11,000)

"The North Star" (RKO)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
ORPHEUM (1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average, $10,000)

"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
"The Chance of a Lifetime" (Col.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $8,500. (Average, $9,400)

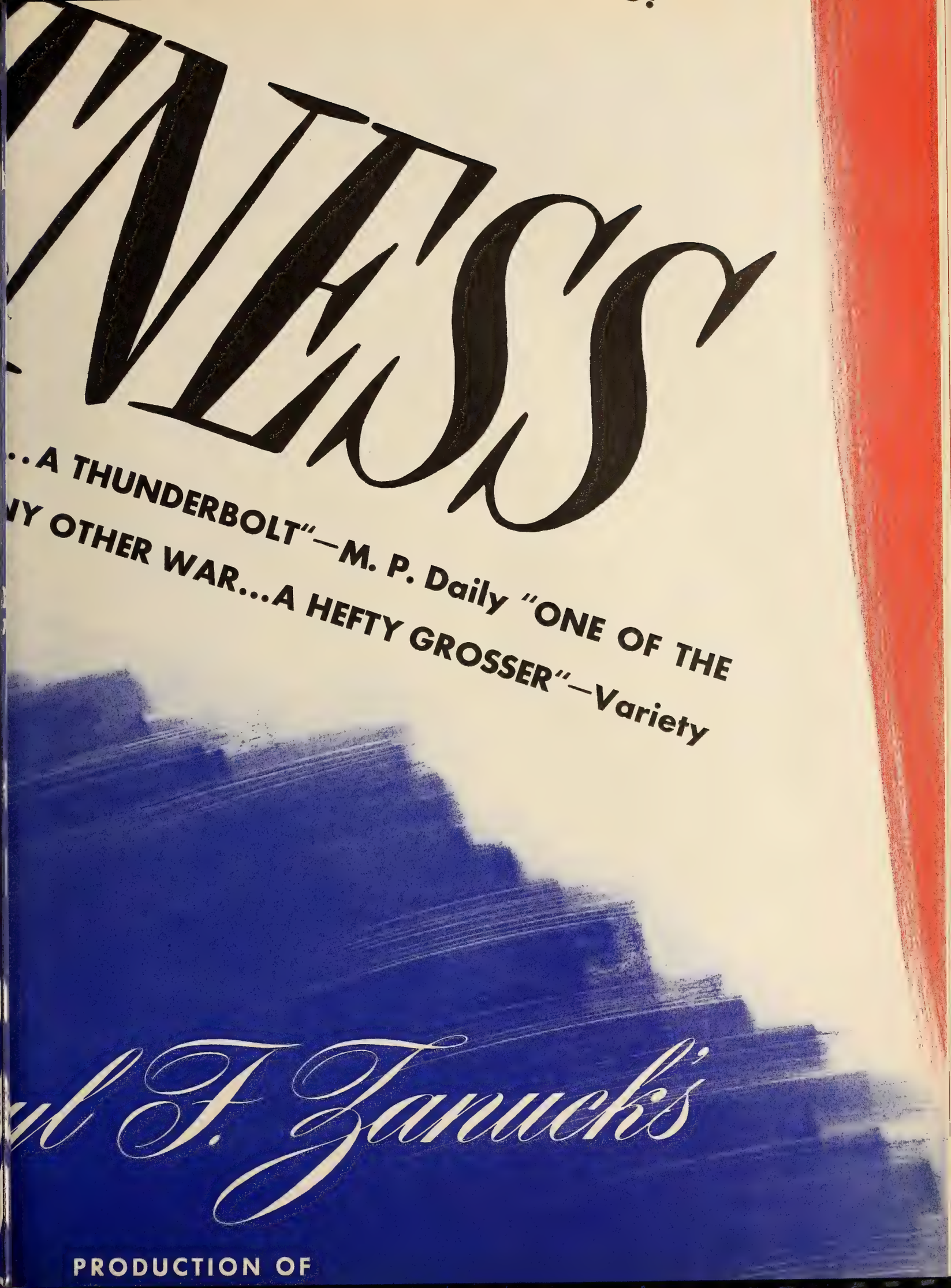
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
UPTOWN — (2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average, $5,600)

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $2,000. (Average, $1,450)

PURPLE HEART

NGER
HALL
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WESS
..A THUNDERBOLT"—M. P. Daily "ONE OF THE
NY OTHER WAR...A HEFTY GROSSER"—Variety
l F. Zanuck's
PRODUCTION OF

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 5

WHEN the G. I. Joes march onto the screen for the first time in a picture stressing the U. S. Infantry in Lester Cowan's "Here Is Your War," based on the Ernie Pyle best-seller, its authenticity should make it stand out. United Artists will release. Cowan is not only producing a picture from a factual work by one of the top-ranking war correspondents, but he has Lucien Hubbard, a South Pacific war correspondent, as associate producer; Leslie Fenton, top-flight director and one-time British Commando, directing and Herbert Kline, producer of documentary war films, as special representative. We suggest a sneak-preview before General Mark Clark's Fifth Army in Rome next August.

•

Twentieth Century-Fox has assigned John Brahm to direct Merle Oberon and Laird Cregar in "Hangover House," another one of those "The Lodger" types, which Barre Lynton is adapting from the novel by Patrick Hamilton. . . . David O. Selznick will premiere "Since You Went Away" about the last week in April, probably in New York. . . . RKO has assigned Edward Dmytryk to direct "Farewell My Lovely," which Adrian Scott will produce under supervision of Sid Rogell.

•

Jack Warner has surrounded Hedy Lamarr, who is to be starred opposite Paul Henreid in "The Conspirators," with some top rankers including Sydney Greenstreet. Pete Lorre, Carole Thurston, Vladimir Sokoloff, George Coulouris and others. . . . Walter Lantz, producer of Universal "Cartunes," has signed Webb Smith who was a writer for Walt Disney for the past nine years.

•

Wallace McDonald has been named associate producer on Columbia's musical, "Calling All Stars," which has gone into work with Will Jason directing. . . . Republic has changed the title of "South Sea Quest" to "Call of the South Seas." Walter Goetz is producing, John English directing. . . . Jack Warner has assigned Joan Leslie to the feminine lead in "Manhattan Fury" (formerly titled "Night Action"). The story is an original by Norman Krasna. . . . RKO has assigned Margo to the feminine lead opposite Tom Conway in the next of the Falcon series, entitled "The Falcon in Mexico." . . . Nunnally Johnson has signed Florence Lake and Grady Sutton for roles in "Casanova Brown" which Sam Wood is directing for International with Gary Cooper and Teresa Wright starred.

•

Mark Sandrich, Paramount producer-director, will put his musical "Waves" before the cameras in ten days. Lieut. Com. Louise K. Wilde, Wave officer, has just finished preproduction conferences on the script and boarded a train for Washington. . . . Clarence Brown is directing "National Velvet" at M-G-M. Twenty-five years ago this month he directed his first picture, "The Great Redeemer," from a script by John Gilbert who later became a famous star.

Review

"Hat Check Honey"

(Universal)

UNIVERSAL'S formula of light comedy and music is employed to good advantage in "Hat Check Honey," featuring Grace McDonald and Leon Errol with fine support from Walter Catlett, Ramsey Ames and Richard Davis. It offers the customers a package of pleasant escapist entertainment. In selling it exhibitors can also cite the fact that Freddy Stack and his orchestra, Harry Owens and His Royal Canadians and Ted Weems and his band as well as vocalist Jimmy Cash appear. The story is a backstage Hollywood comedy-drama.

To provide his son, Davis, with an opportunity to make good on his own Errol casts him as his partner in a carnival song and dance act. Davis goes to New York and with the help of Miss McDonald, a hat-check girl in a night club, he becomes the vocalist with Freddy Stack's band. A crack at Hollywood follows and he makes good. Errol, moreover, is a detriment to his son's future. Misunderstandings develop but all turns out well in the end. Davis and Miss McDonald get together and Errol gets a break in pictures through the filming of the story of his life written by Miss McDonald.

Direction by Edward F. Cline is adequate and associate producer Will Cowan has achieved an attractive production. The screenplay is by Maurice Leo and Stanley Davis from an original by Al Martin.

Running time 69 mins. "G."* Release date March 10.

MILT LIVINGSTON

"Hot Rhythm"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, March 5

THE able team of producer Lindsley Parsons and director William Beaudine can chalk up another successful comedy. Gay songs, diverting dialogue and nonsensical pranks, all performed by an excellent cast, add up to a fine contribution to this field of entertainment.

There are five song numbers, the most memorable of which are "Where Are You?" and "The Happiest Girl in Town." The first is sung by Dona Drake, a fragile little lady with a most appealing voice, and the second by Irene Ryan, who puts it over in comedy fashion, in keeping with her character as a "screwball" secretary to the president of the recording company which provides the setting in which the screenplay by Tim Ryan and Charles R. Marion is laid. The story concerns the misadventures of a song-and-lyric writing team, played by Robert Lowery and Sidney Miller, in their attempts to put Miss Drake's talents to better use than the singing of soap jingles. Comedy and laughter, much of it provided by Harry Langdon, keep the action going and bring it to a successful climax when Miss Drake is established as vocalist with an outstanding orchestra.

Running time, 79 minutes. "G."* Release date April 7.

THALIA BELL

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Ross Branch Heads In Field Changes

A series of field changes have been made by Ross Federal Service. They include the retirement of F. A. Rosevelt, branch manager in Kansas after 14 years with the company. W. R. Baader, Milwaukee branch manager, will leave that post to join the executive office in New York.

Other Ross branch manager shifts include: W. H. Earles of the San Francisco office, to take charge in Pittsburgh; E. W. Baader moved from Albany, N. Y., to Milwaukee, succeeding his brother, and C. C. Charles, who will leave Cincinnati to replace E. W. Baader in Albany. Also Milton H. Kress will replace Harold Henderson in Philadelphia.

Abe Frankle Passes

DES MOINES, March 5.—Abe Frankle, 71, owner of the Casino Theatre here, died recently of a heart attack. Frankle was a pioneer in theatre business here. At one time he was partner with A. H. Blank in the Des Moines Theatre Co. He is survived by his widow, two sons in Des Moines and a daughter in Los Angeles.

Phila. Policewomen Urge Theatre Charge

PHILADELPHIA, March 5. — Closer supervision of theatres was urged by the crime prevention division of local policewomen in its annual report. Emphasis was placed on supervision of all-night houses in the center of town. The report showed a rise of 93.4 percent in juvenile girl delinquency over last year.

Nearby Camden has passed an ordinance prohibiting children under 14 from attending theatres at any time unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

'Snow White' Showings

Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" will be tradeshown nationally on March 13 and 14, it was announced Friday by RKO, distributor of Disney's features. Screenings on the 13th will be at 10:30 A.M. with the following exceptions: New York, 11 A.M. and 2:30 P.M.; and Seattle, 2:30 P.M. The picture will be shown on the 14th in St. Louis at 11:30 A.M. There will be no screenings in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Indianapolis.

U. S. Films Seen Amid Jap Fire and Coconut Palms

By MARTIN BURKE (Y1c)

(Coast Guard Combat Correspondent, as Released by USCG, New York)

With a Coast Guard Unit Somewhere in the Southwest Pacific, (Delayed)—Clear a clump of coconut trees out here, set up a projector and a makeshift screen, and there is Hollywood and films—and the boys can't get enough of it.

With the alacrity associated with the landing on some Pacific island, the film party scrambles over the side of the Coast Guard-manned LST, carrying boxes. Onetime ration containers serve as seats. The choice seats are crude benches or logs. Sometimes, like at the place where we were combat loading recently a film drags almost interminably, because a single projector means changing reels while the audience waits. Once the air raid siren's screech sent us all bolting out of the screening area. Scrambling through clusters of Marines we dashed down the white, moonlit road with the others to the LST. Trucks of Marines raced along to the shore batteries. The Jap was on his way over.

Night Filled with Salvoes

All night hell broke loose. Fuel dumps ashore were blown up and magenta fire fringed by sullen black smoke lit up the landscape. Purple and yellow explosions blasted the night air. A salvo of bombs hopskipped the bow of the ship, with a regular aquacade performance on the port side. Next morning came the all clear. As we had hot coffee in the crew's quarters, Edward P. Barry, pharmacist's mate, first class, Fort Worth, Texas, uttered the question which was on everyone's lips: "How in hell did that movie wind up last night!"

Billing is not too varied. One night we saw Alice Faye, Jack Oakie, and John Payne in "Hello, Frisco, Hello." In the next show we saw the "Great American Broadcast," with Alice Faye, Jack Oakie and John Payne. There is truly no favorites among stars—that might be disappointing to Hollywood, but on the other hand we sit through driving rain to see anything.

The scene that goes over the best is servicemen seen back home, jitterbugging. Also the boys like to see South Sea pictures in which the hero grouses that he has "been in this damn place for three months and ain't seen a white woman." This always gets a rise. War and sea films also get a cynical going over; most war exploits pictured are regarded by these men as sheer baloney.

But withal, "movie call" is the biggest thing out here.

Edith Sharff Dies

HARTFORD, March 5.—Edith Sharff, 29, manager of the Sheldon Theatre in Sheepshead Bay, N. Y., for the past four years, died in Hartford Hospital. Surviving are two brothers and six sisters.

'Rhythm' Opens Mar. 16

M-G-M's "Broadway Rhythm" will have its premiere March 16 in six theatres: Regent, Harrisburg; Colonial, Reading; Loew's, Richmond; State, Syracuse; Valentine, Toledo, and Aldine, Wilmington.

DO NOT REMOVE

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 46 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1944 TEN CENTS

Universal Net Is $3,759,968; $953,968 Rise

Common Earns $6.57 Per Share, Against $5.34

Universal Pictures Co. had consolidated net profits of $3,759,968, after all charges including Federal taxes, equivalent to $6.57 per share of the common stock, during the year ended Oct. 30, 1943, J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, announced yesterday, in the company's annual report. This compares with a net of $2,806,952, or $5.34 per share, in the preceding year.



J. Cheever Cowdin

Total income from operations aggregated $46,527,527, compared with $39,109,524 in the preced-

(*Continued on page* 11)

Broadway Business Again Above Par

Business at Broadway first-run theatres is continuing to hold up well. Both holdovers and new arrivals are registering substantially above par. The first week's receipts of "Up in Arms" and a stage show at Radio City Music Hall will be approxi-

(*Continued on page* 11)

New Arthur Set-Up Resumes in 5 Weeks

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Harry Arthur of Fanchon and Marco, St. Louis, will return here from that city in five weeks to resume negotiations for production alliances for the new distributing company which he is formulating along the territorial franchise pattern of the old First National.

Before leaving for his St. Louis exhibition headquarters he said that unnamed personalities are "tremendously interested" in the project, but he refused to divulge identities. A group of representative exhibitors in one "important area" have advised him that they intend to organize to acquire a distribution franchise.

RKO Meet to Vote On Pension Plan And Stock Options

RKO stockholders will be asked to vote on a resolution approving and ratifying the action of the company's board of directors in establishing a pension trust plan for eligible employes, and to adopt a resolution approving stock purchase option agreements for N. Peter Rathvon, president; Ned E. Depinet, vice-president, and Charles W. Koerner, vice-president, at a special meeting to be held at Dover, Del., March 14.

Details of the company's employes' pension plan were published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 4.

The stock options provide for the purchase by Rathvon, Depinet and Koerner of 50,000 shares of RKO common each at $8 per share during a seven-year period dating from Aug. 3, 1943. The option price was the

(*Continued on page* 12)

Schaefer Heads Yeshiva Drive

George J. Schaefer, chairman of the industry's War Activities Committee will, for the fifth year, serve as chairman of the Motion Picture annual scholarship drive for needy students at Yeshiva College, described as the only college of liberal arts and sciences in America under Jewish auspices. The movement was started by the late W. G. Van Schmus at a dinner at the

(*Continued on page* 12)

Para. Subscribed $2,067,000 in Bonds

War bonds totaling $2,067,000 were bought by the Paramount home office and exchanges in the Fourth War Loan Drive, it was revealed here yesterday by the company. This does not include purchases by theatre partners or the Hollywood studio. Both the home office and exchange totals include employe purchases of only extra bonds, beyond payroll allotments.

Special Effort on Pledges as Drive Of Red Cross Nears

The industry's chief duty during the next few days in preparation for the 1944 Red Cross War Fund drive is to get pledges of cooperation from every exhibitor in the country, Ben Kalmenson, Warner general sales manager and member of the national committee's touring group, told 250 exhibitor and distributor representatives yesterday at the War Activities Committee-Motion Picture Theatres rally at the Hotel Nicollet in Des Moines, the WAC here reported. Other rallies were held simultaneously in Cincinnati and Los Angeles.

The Des Moines delegates, presided

(*Continued on page* 12)

CIO Challenges AFL on White-Collarite 'Raid'

Sidney Young, president of the Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, Local 109 (United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO), yesterday characterized the Motion Picture Office Employes' (AFL) projected attempt to "raid" SOPEG's home office jurisdiction as "unprincipled." Involved are some hundreds of film "white collarites."

"After consultation with the national officers of the U. O. P. W. A., SOPEG is authorized to state that if the AFL seeks to challenge SOPEG's position in the film industry, the CIO is prepared to head off any such challenge," said Young. Disclosure of the AFL's contemplated "raid" was reported ex-

(*Continued on page* 12)

Chicago Industry Given 40-Hour Week

CHICAGO, March 6.—Exemptions from a 48-hour week have been granted by the War Manpower Commission here to all Chicago distributors and to independent theatres. Charles Rogers Wilson, administrative assistant in charge of the 48-hour week unit of WMC, Chicago, says he has not received any appeals from the loop theatres.

Under the order, effective last Jan. 1, establishing Greater Chicago as a Group 1 critical labor shortage area, all theatres in Cook, Du Page and Kendall counties must file an appeal if consideration for exemption is desired. Local industry leaders expressed the hope that all theatres in the area would do so.

Union-Majors' Meetings to Run 3 Weeks

Producers Hear Half of Unions' Proposals

Half of the proposals being made by 15 IATSE studio craft unions, representing some 15,000 studio workers, for a new contract to replace the two-year agreement between IATSE and the producers which expired on Jan. 1, were discussed at the first meeting here yesterday in the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, with IATSE officials, representatives of studio locals and producer representatives. A second meeting has been set for Wednesday afternoon with negotiations expected to



Pat Casey

(*Continued on page* 12)

Rental Ceiling Not In Canada Program

TORONTO, March 6.—The new conciliation program of the Canadian industry, evolving from the recent trade peace conference in Toronto with a unified industrial front as an objective, does not include film rental prices or grading product, it has been learned.

The regional conciliation boards agreed upon for the six key cities of the Dominion in the draft of the new trade code will deal with practically

(*Continued on page* 12)

WB Puts Damper On Radio 'Previews'

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Warner Bros. announced today a new policy barring clearance of its scripts for radio broadcasting until at least four or five months after release, and increasing of prices on scripts cleared for commercial radio programs.

Alex Evelove, publicity head for Warners' studio, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that in many instances a property representing great effort

(*Continued on page* 12)

Kelly Reports on Eagle-Lion's Plans

Arthur W. Kelly, head of J. Arthur Rank's Eagle-Lion Film, Inc., comments on that company's American distribution plans, in a wire to MOTION PICTURE DAILY from Beverly Hills, Cal., as follows:

"I desire with your assistance through your publication to correct certain statements made in the trade press in conjunction with Arthur Rank's distribution plans in this country. Rank has not deviated whatsoever from his original intent to establish worldwide a new independent distributing company known as Eagle-Lion Film, Inc., for the purpose of having a permanent worldwide distribution medium for English pictures produced by the best of English producers in association with Rank. At least if not more than half the program shall be U.S.A. pictures contributed by the best producing association that can be acquired.

"It is nevertheless realized that due to war conditions difficulties might be encountered in certain exchange areas in setting up an organization. In such localities two major companies have graciously offered Eagle-Lion physical distribution."

(*Arthur Kelly's statement is in accord with a story based on an interview with him published in the* DAILY *on Feb.* 16).

Rodgers and Aaron in Chicago for Meetings

CHICAGO, March 6.—William F. Rodgers, M-G-M general sales manager, and Edwin W. Aaron, circuit sales head, are due here from Hollywood for the company's five-day business conference scheduled to start Saturday at the Blackstone Hotel.

Aaron had planned stopovers in Denver and Kansas City but cancelled them in view of pre-conference engagements here.

Lawson Is Elected Odeon Vice-President

TORONTO, March 6.—J. E. Lawson, K.C., former member of the Canadian House of Commons, has become vice-president and director of Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd., of which Paul Nathanson is president. Lawson, one-time Minister of Trade and Commerce in the federal government, has also been made a director of Empire-Universal-Films, Ltd. He was a pioneer theatre owner in Toronto and has acted as counsel for a number of film companies during the past 15 years.

George H. Beeston, accountant, has also become a member of the boards of Odeon and Empire-Universal. He has been with the companies for many years.

Hooper Rites Held

SAN ANTONIO, March 6.—Services were held at the weekend for Jack W. Hooper, commercial photographer who spent several years in Hollywood working with United Artists, Warners and other studios. He is survived by his widow, mother and two sisters.

Personal Mention

WILL H. HAYS, president of the MPPDA, is in Washington from New York.

•

AL DAFF, Universal foreign sales supervisor, is the father of a baby girl, HEATHER RUTH, born to MRS. DAFF in Bozeman, Mont. DAFF is enroute to Great Britain on company business.

•

HOWARD KENNEDY, Broken Bow, Neb., exhibitor, has been commissioned a Navy lieutenant (j.g.), and H. P. KENNEDY, his father, has taken over during his absence.

•

BERNIE ROSENZWEIG of Warners' home office financial department, and MRS. ROSENZWEIG, became the parents of a girl last weekend at Israel Zion Hospital here.

•

DENNIS F. O'BRIEN, of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, is due in New York March 13 from his winter home at Boca Grande, Florida.

•

FRED GABOURIE, M-G-M studio superintendent of construction, arrived in town yesterday from the Coast.

•

SAMUEL BRONSTON, United Artists producer, has returned to Hollywood after a two weeks' stay here.

•

AL ROCKETT and MRS. ROCKETT arrived from Hollywood yesterday and are staying at the Savoy-Plaza.

•

HARRY THOMAS, Monogram's Eastern division sales manager, has left New York on a three weeks' sales trip.

•

LT. MORTON GERBERG, formerly of Warners' home office publicity department, is in New York from Texas for ten days.

•

JAMES BRACKEN, head of Warner Theatres' contact department, New Haven, will leave for the Army within three weeks.

•

AL KOLITZ, RKO Denver manager, spent a few days recently in Cincinnati.

•

JEROME J. COHEN, film insurance broker here, will observe a birthday tomorrow.

•

SAM CLARK, Warner West Coast exploiteer, is on a three-week trip through the Pacific Northwest.

•

JOE MARKOWITZ, former M-G-M Chicago office manager, has been honorably discharged from the Army.

•

SID ROSE, United Artists' Chicago branch manager, is at Hot Springs for two weeks.

•

WALTER HOFFMAN, 20th-Fox home office exploiteer, is in Des Moines.

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, Loew's president, has returned from a Miami vacation.

•

M. A. LEVY, 20th-Fox district manager at Minneapolis; E. H. COLLINGS, assistant to W. C. GEHRING at the home office, and J. E. SCOTT, Omaha manager, have returned to their respective headquarters from meetings in Des Moines.

•

ED MOREY, Monogram executive, returned yesterday from Scranton and Philadelphia and left for Boston to attend a testimonial luncheon there today for W. RAY JOHNSTON, Monogram president.

•

B. C. MARCUS, Columbia Midwest division manager, Kansas City, and PHIL CANE, Midwest exploiteer out of Chicago, have returned to their respective branches from Des Moines conferences.

•

L. B. MAYER, M-G-M production vice-president, and HOWARD STRICKLING, studio publicity head, arrived here yesterday from Washington and Hollywood.

•

HENDERSON RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor-relations director, will leave today for Buffalo, returning Thursday.

•

LOU CHAPMAN, Quigley Publications' advertising production manager, will leave today for the Army.

•

MEL EVIDON, Des Moines manager for Columbia, has returned from Omaha conferences.

•

FRED MEYERS, Universal's Eastern sales manager, will be in Philadelphia tomorrow and in Washington on Thursday.

•

PHYLLIS BETZ, cashier at the Universal Minneapolis branch, has enlisted in the Wacs.

•

REBA CORNETT, Universal Indianapolis cashier, has joined the U. S. Marine Corps.

•

N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president, returned here yesterday from the Coast.

•

ARTHUR GREENBLATT, Monogram special representative, is en route from New York to Cincinnati.

•

LOU GOLDBERG, 20th-Fox exploitation representative, has returned from Miami.

•

ROBERT GILLHAM, Paramount advertising and publicity director, returned yesterday from the Coast.

•

JULIUS M. GORDON, president of Jefferson Amusement Co., Beaumont, Tex., is in town.

Mrs. Rennie Dies

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA., March 6.—Mrs. William Rennie, 81, mother of Orville Rennie of Tri-States Theatre Corp., died recently in Sioux Falls, S. D.

Frace Joins Universal

Ernie Frace, formerly with RKO, has joined Universal as a salesman and is covering the South Dakota territory out of Minneapolis.

Coming Events

March 8—Universal stockholders' meeting and board election, Wilmington, Del.

March 11-15—M-G-M sales-and-war conference, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago.

March 13—Rally for Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People of Europe, Madison Square Garden, New York.

March 21—New York theatre owners' dinner for Robert S. Wolff, RKO, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York.

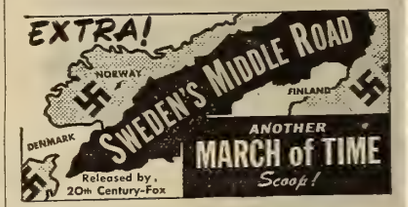
March 23-29—Motion picture theatres' Red Cross campaign.

April 3—Universal board meeting and election of officers, New York.

April 5—Atlas Corp. annual stockholders' meeting, Wilmington, Del.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
DANNY KAYE
"UP IN ARMS"
Released through RKO
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. CIrcle 6-4600



RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
MICHAEL O'SHEA
SUSAN HAYWARD
"JACK LONDON"
First American Prisoner of the Japs

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
ON SCREEN
"MIRACLE of MORGAN'S CREEK"
BETTY HUTTON
EDDIE BRACKEN
IN PERSON
Blue Barron's Orchestra
with
Tommy Ryan

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

CABLE ADDRESS
"WANEWAR"

PHONE
CIRCLE 6-1000

WARNER BROS.
PICTURES, INC.
321 WEST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK

WEST COAST STUDIOS
BURBANK, CAL

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

With a deep sense of pride and a deeper sense of responsibility, all of us at Warner Bros. today say thank you.

We are grateful to the members of the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences, the people of the motion picture industry, the theatre showmen of America, and the public for their recognition of the fundamental aims of Warner Bros. Studios; "to produce films that will help to champion the basic freedoms of democracy."

We feel that the American Motion Picture Industry today faces a responsibility, greater than ever before in our history, to our country, our armed forces, and to the voiceless millions everywhere in the world who look to this nation for light and liberation.

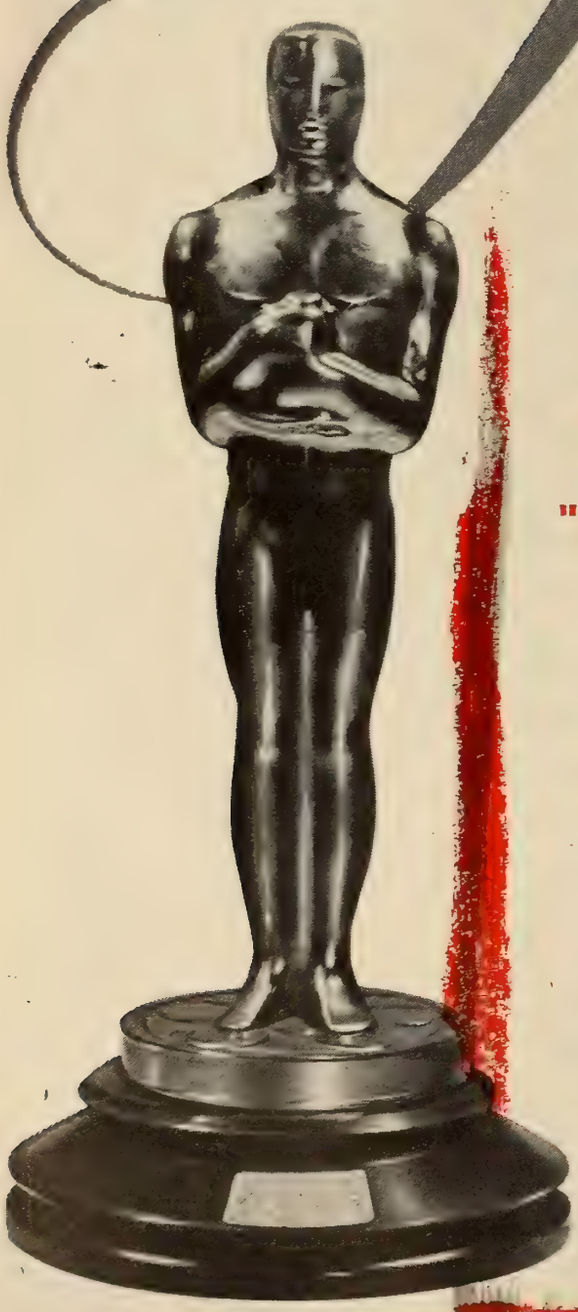
Anyone aware of this immense and historical challenge can only humbly pledge "the last full measure of devotion".

Jack L. Warner



These were

"COMBINING GOOD CITIZENSH



MOST OUTSTANDING MOTIC

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN A

ON THE RHINE"; BEST DI

"CASABLANCA"; IRVING THA

BEST WRITTEN SCREEN PLAY:

HOWARD KOCH FOR **"CASA**

PLAY: **NORMAN KRASN**

BEST FILM EDITING: **GEO**

BEST SCORING OF MUSICA

FOR IRVING BERLIN'S **"THIS**

W

the Results of

WITH GOOD PICTURE-MAKING"

(– NEW YORK TIMES)

PICTURE: **"CASABLANCA";**

R: **PAUL LUKAS** IN **"WATCH**

TION: **MICHAEL CURTIZ** FOR

ERG AWARD: **HAL B. WALLIS;**

LIUS & PHILIP EPSTEIN AND

NCA"; BEST ORIGINAL SCREEN

OR **"PRINCESS O'ROURKE";**

E AMY FOR **"AIR FORCE";**

ICTURES: **RAY HEINDORF**

THE ARMY".

RNER BROS.

This is the record number of Academy Nominations, in 24 of the 26 classifications, from which the Warner awards were selected:

Outstanding motion picture
"CASABLANCA"
"WATCH ON THE RHINE"

Best performance by actor
HUMPHREY BOGART, "Casablanca"
PAUL LUKAS, "Watch on the Rhine"

Best performance by actress
JOAN FONTAINE,
"The Constant Nymph"

Best performance by supporting actor
CLAUDE RAINS, "Casablanca"

Best performance by supporting actress
LUCILE WATSON,
"Watch on the Rhine"

Best direction
MICHAEL CURTIZ, "Casablanca"

Best screenplay
JULIUS J. EPSTEIN, PHILIP G. EPSTEIN, HOWARD KOCH,
"Casablanca"
DASHIELL HAMMETT,
"Watch on the Rhine"

Best original screenplay
DUDLEY NICHOLS, "Air Force"
NORMAN KRASNA,
"Princess O'Rourke"

Best original picture story
GUY GILPATRIC,
"Action in the North Atlantic"
STEVE FISHER, "Destination Tokyo"

Documentary short subjects
"Rear Gunner" • "Task Force"
"The Voice That Thrilled the World"

Art direction (black and white)
CARL JULES WEYL,
"Mission to Moscow"

Art direction (color)
LT. JOHN KOENIG, JOHN HUGHES,
"This Is the Army"

Interior decorators of productions receiving awards for art direction (black and white)
GEORGE JAMES HOPKINS,
"Mission to Moscow"

Interior decorators of productions receiving awards for art direction (color)
GEORGE JAMES HOPKINS,
"This is the Army"

Film editing
GEORGE AMY, "Air Force"
OWEN MARKS, "Casablanca"

Cinematography (black and white)
JAMES WONG HOWE, A.S.C.,
"Air Force"
ARTHUR EDESON, A.S.C.,
"Casablanca"

Sound recording
NATHAN LEVINSON,
"This is the Army"

Special effects
ROY DAVIDSON, REX WIMPY, A.S.C.,
"Air Force"

Best scoring of musical
RAY HEINDORF, "This is the Army"

Best score, dramatic picture
MAX STEINER, "Casablanca"

Best song
ARTHUR SCHWARTZ, music
FRANK LOESSER, lyrics
"They're Either Too Young or Too Old"

Short subjects, cartoons
LEON SCHLESINGER,
"Greetings, Bait"

Short subjects, one reel
GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD,
"Cavalcade of Dance with Veloz and Yolanda"

Short subjects, two reels
GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD,
"Women at War"

20th Centu

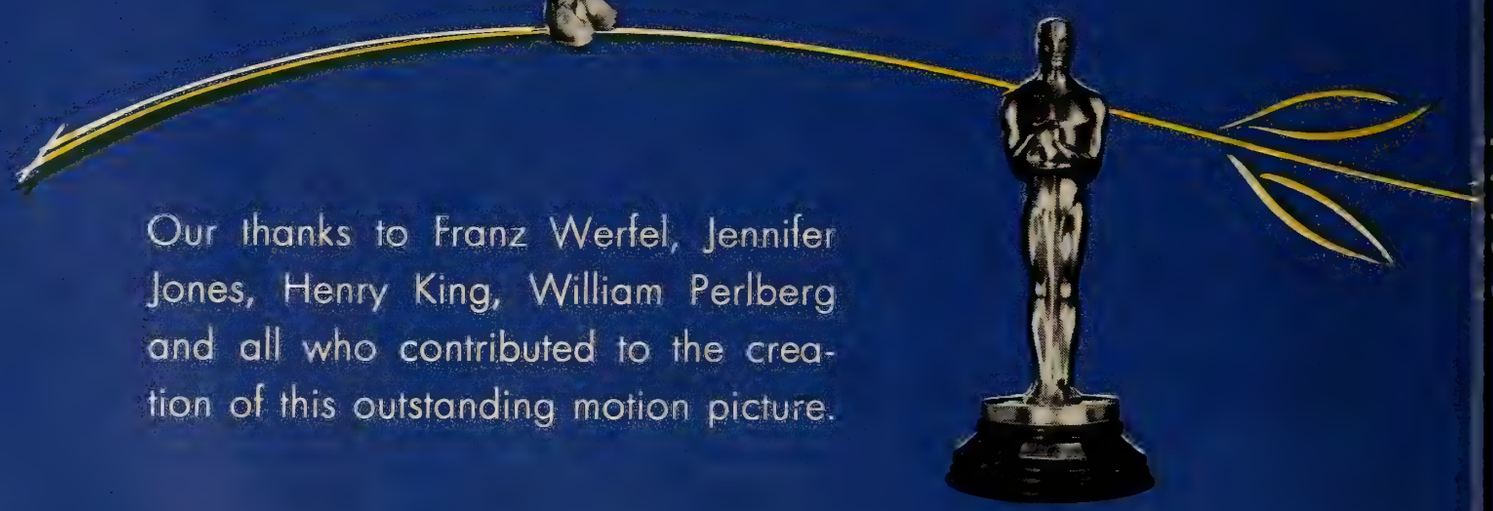
with pride and honor, exten

JENNIFER

on receiving THE ACADEMY AWARD for

THE SONG O





Our thanks to Franz Werfel, Jennifer Jones, Henry King, William Perlberg and all who contributed to the creation of this outstanding motion picture.

To ALFRED NEWMAN
for the Best Score for a Dramatic Picture

To JAMES BASEVI
and WILLIAM DARLING
for the Best

...-Fox

...s sincerest congratulations to

...JONES

...Year's Best Feminine Performance in

...F BERNADETTE

CALLING ALL PATRIOTIC SHOWMEN! RED CROSS
DRIVE MARCH 23rd THROUGH MARCH 29th!

...ction



To ARTHUR MILLER
for Best Black and White Cinematography



To THOMAS LITTLE
for the Best Interior Decoration

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 6

CHARLES M. RYAN, National Labor Relations Board examiner, today opened a hearing on the Screen Players Union petition that a bargaining agency election be held among extras to determine their representation. The Screen Actors Guild, to which the extras presently belong, is opposing the move on the ground that the new union would invade the field rightfully belonging to SAG.

•

Mark Hellinger, one-time Hearst correspondent, has applied for a war correspondent's credentials. He plans a leave of absence from Warners, where he is a producer, to cover the South Pacific war fronts for Hearst as soon as his papers are cleared.

•

Fox West Coast executives and divisional heads will open their annual meeting at Palm Springs on Wednesday. Participants will include Harold J. Fitzgerald, Elmer C. Rhoden, B. V. Sturdivant, Frank H. Ricketson and George Bowser.

•

Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager of Monogram, arrived here today from Toronto, after several weeks in New York and the East.

•

Vice-president Leon Fromkess announced PRC's plans for the color picture "Enchanted Forest," an original by Gilbert Wright, with Jack Schwartz producing.

•

President W. Ray Johnston today named Albert Martin chief accountant for Monogram. He was formerly with Paramount Theatres and the 20th-Fox studio.

•

Betty Grable and Harry James have become the parents of a girl, Victoria Elizabeth. Mother and daughter are doing well.

•

Lloyd Bacon has been signed to a term directing contract by 20th-Fox.

Industry Tax Group Completed This Week

Pete Wood, chairman of the new Allied tax council, has sent his report on the Round Table Conference of exhibitor organizations on taxation, to the Allied executive committee for approval. Organization of the group is expected to be completed this week.

Representatives of the national exhibitor associations, circuits and unaffiliated groups will designate representatives.

CIAA to Screen Three

The New York office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs will screen three documentary short subjects tomorrow at 2 P.M. at 444 Madison Ave. The subjects are "The Bridge," "Housing in Chile" and "Wealth of the Andes" and will be released shortly by the CIAA.

Canteen Has Birthday

The New York Stage Door Canteen, which has entertained 2,000,000 servicemen, under the auspices of the American Theater Wing, observed its second birthday at the weekend.

Review

"Tunisian Victory"

(BMI—M-G-M)

THAT fateful moment in 1942 when German panzers raced through the Ukraine and Marshal Rommel, "The Desert Fox," pressed hard for Cairo, was chosen as the incredible hour for the Allies to take the offensive. At the low ebb in Allied military fortunes, staff talks in Washington plotted the campaign that was to smash the Afrika Korps. It is this campaign, perhaps the turning point of the war, that has been depicted in "Tunisian Victory," the first joint undertaking of the British Army Film Unit and the U. S. Army Signal Corps, which emerges as one of the most ambitious, dramatic and comprehensive of war documentaries.

The vast paraphernalia, minute planning, home-front production, split-second timing and just plain "sweating-it-out" in a shallow fox-hole, many-faceted phases of the invasion of Africa and a protracted campaign, are vividly portrayed in ample detail in this 75-minute feature. Thrilling shots of invasion craft grinding on the sands of a hostile beach, lumbering tanks battling in the classic style, smoking the enemy out of galleries hewn out of hills, and paratroopers jumping on enemy airfields, are but some of the scenes that contribute to an appreciation of what military operations entail. Fifty cameramen, of whom four paid for the footage with their lives, were engaged in photographing combat and attendant scenes.

Col. Frank Capra of the U. S. Army and Lt. Col. Hugh Stewart of the British Army, in charge of production, have attempted to lift the "fog" of war, and with tangible results. Complex military operations become understandable through the device of animated diagrams. Inevitable voids where darkness prevented recording of events, notably in the night battles of Hill 609 and Wadi Zig Zaou, are bridged through authentic reenactments. Commentary written by J. L. Hodson, British war correspondent, and Capt. Anthony Veiller of the Signal Corps, spoken by a British and an American narrator, serves to clarify for the layman many loose ends.

Voices of a British tommy and an American doughboy, spoken by Bernard Miles, an English actor, and Burgess Meredith, respectively, point up the human element of the man in the ranks. And for good measure captured German scenes of Rommel and his staff plotting their operations round out the picture. German shots of enemy reinforcements pouring in remind us that a determined enemy faces us, putting forth in his turn, an extended effort to exterminate us. British Ministry of Information is distributing, with M-G-M releasing the film in the U. S.

Running time, 75 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

CHARLES RYWECK

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Mrs. E. D. Durwood Dies in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 6.—Mrs. Celia Taxman Durwood, wife of Edward D. Durwood, general manager of the Durwood-Dubinsky circuit, died here recently at Menorah Hospital after a long illness.

Mrs. Durwood attended the wedding of her daughter, Marjorie, two weeks prior to her death, having returned home from the hospital long enough for the ceremony. Funeral services were held at the Rose Hill Mausoleum chapel. Surviving, besides her husband and daughter, are two sons, Stanley, an aviation cadet, and Richard, in college.

Buchanan to Handle 'International' Ads

Buchanan & Co., Inc., will handle advertising of International Pictures, producing unit headed by Leo Spitz and William F. Goetz. International's first picture is "Casanova Brown."

The agency also will handle campaigns for some United Artists' Productions, including Jules Levey's "The Hairy Ape" and Andrew Stone's "Sensations of 1944." Sumner W. Singer will be in charge of the three accounts.

Basil Wants More Buffalo Clearance

Basil Bros., operators of the La Salle Theatre, Niagara Falls, N. Y., complainant; Loew's, distributor defendant; Buffalo Theatres, Inc., and the Cataract Theatre Corp., intervenors, have all filed notice of appeal in the clearance complaint award rendered by the Buffalo arbitrator in favor of Basil Bros., the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

William E. Barrett, arbitrator, in rendering his decision in favor of Basil Bros., reduced the clearance of 35 days, and in some cases 30 days, between Cataract Theatre Corp., and Buffalo Theatres, Inc., over the La Salle to not more than 17 days after end of first-run in Niagara Falls. The Basils want this further reduced.

Old Timers' Reunion

More than 50 film, stage and radio stars and members of the press, will attend a reunion of friends of Nora Bayes this afternoon in the Murray Hill Hotel, in connection with Friday's world premiere of Warners' "Shine On, Harvest Moon," based on the life of Miss Bayes.

Blumenstock Urges Wider Promotions

Extended promotional campaigns, to take full advantage of extended run possibilities of top attractions, and more intensive follow-through with new forms of promotional activities in situations where wartime necessity has curtailed some of the usual channels of advertising, were urged by Mort Blumenstock at a meeting of the Warner Bros. field public relations staff yesterday. A morning conference preceded the screening of "The Adventures of Mark Twain," followed by a joint afternoon session with Harry Goldberg's theatre zone advertising men and a general discussion of the campaign for this picture.

Lasky Attends

Jesse L. Lasky, producer of "Mark Twain," attended the afternoon meeting and gave the field crews some background and showmanship angles. A joint session wound up last night.

Today, Larry Golob, manager of the field exploitation force, will hold individual conferences with members of that staff, which was recently augmented by Blumenstock to keep pace with field campaign demands.

Field representatives attending include: Ted Tod, Lucia Perrigo, Frank Bruner, Bill Brumberg, Herbert S. Pickman, Glenn Ireton, Don Walker, Jack Leewood, Carl Post, Art Moger, Robert Harris. Theater ad men present are J. Knox Strachan, Dan Finn, Robert Paskow, Frank La Falce, Irving Blumberg, James M. Totman, Marcel Brazee, Charles Smakwitz.

Legion Rejects One, Passes Four Others

Paramount's "The Hour Before Dawn" was placed in Class B, objectionable in part, this week by the Legion of Decency because "the revengeful murder committed by the main character is approvingly presented and contributes to the plot solution." Mexico's film, "Ay Que Tiempos Senor Don Simon," Film Mundiales, was placed in the Class C condemned category, for "satirizing morality and forces of morality" and for "suggestive costuming and dancing."

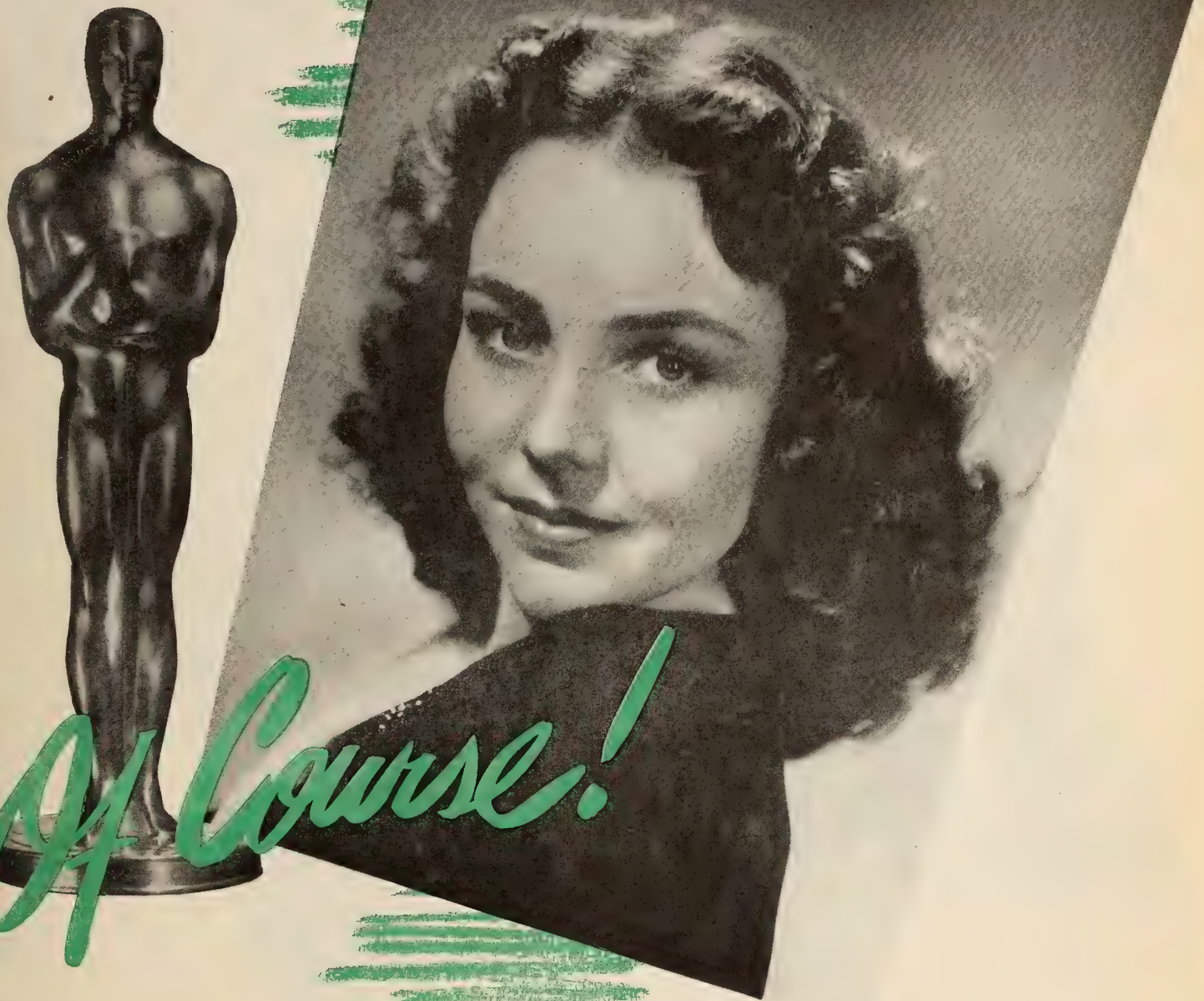
Four other films were found acceptable: "Cowboy Canteen," Columbia; "Going My Way," Paramount; "Hat Check Honey," Universal, all Class A-1, and "The Purple Heart," 20th Century-Fox, rated unobjectionable for adults.

$10,250 to Cummings For Contract Breach

LOS ANGELES, March 6.—Federal Judge Harry Holtzer today awarded Robert Cummings $10,250 back salary and held he was within his rights in holding his contract with Universal breached when the studio refused to cast him in other pictures after he refused a role in "Fired Wife" on the grounds that it would be detrimental to his standing as an actor.

'U' Promotes Murphy

James H. Murphy, formerly assistant to F. T. Murray, Universal branch operations manager, has been named personnel director at the home office. He has been with Universal for several years, starting as a contract clerk.



Of Course!

JENNIFER JONES'

next prize winning performance will be as one of the eight stars in

DAVID O. SELZNICK'S

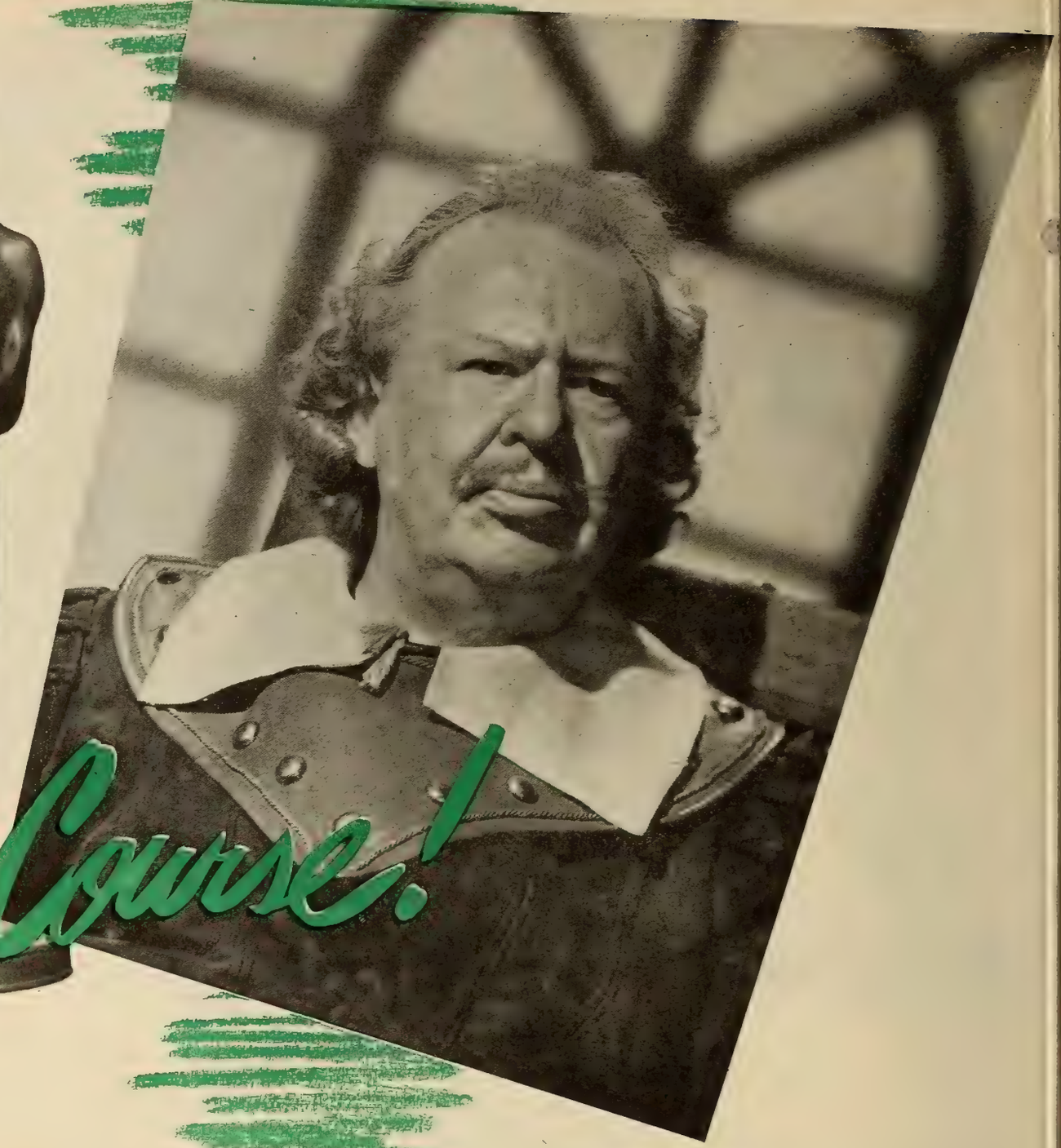
first production since "Gone With The Wind" and "Rebecca"

"SINCE YOU WENT AWAY"

"SINCE YOU WENT AWAY" starring Claudette Colbert • Jennifer Jones • Joseph Cotten • Shirley Temple • Monty Woolley • Charles Coburn Lionel Barrymore and Robert Walker with Hattie McDaniel • Agnes Moorehead Nazimova and Albert Basserman • Directed by John Cromwell

Released thru UNITED ARTISTS





Of Course!

CHARLES COBURN's

next prize winning performance is in

"Knickerbocker Holiday"

Presented by Producers' Corporation of America

NELSON EDDY • CHARLES COBURN • CONSTANCE DOWLING

in "KNICKERBOCKER HOLIDAY"

with Ernest Cossart • Produced and Directed by HARRY JOE BROWN

Released thru
UNITED ARTISTS

Business Again Above Par at First-run Houses

(*Continued from page* 1)

mately $115,000, with $74,000 grossed on the first four days; the bill will hold over.

"Lady in the Dark" is headed for $110,000 in a second week at the Paramount with a stage show featuring Xavier Cugat and his band. It's $110,000 would bring it close to the previous first-week record established there by "Star Spangled Rhythm." The bill will hold and give Paramount four pictures on Broadway.

"The Uninvited" at the Globe is expected to gross $22,000 in its third week and will hold for a fourth. The second week of "Standing Room Only" at the Criterion will yield $30,000 and it will hold for a third and final week. The fourth Paramount picture, "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek," is playing Loew's State.

'Sullivans' Closes

The Roxy will wind up its fourth and final week of "The Sullivans" and a stage show with $60,000. "The Purple Heart" and a stage bill featuring Count Basie and band, Carol Bruce and Zero Mostel will open tomorrow. First week of "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" and a bill presenting Will Osborne and his orchestra and Larry Adler at the Capitol is expected to be better than $60,000 and will hold over. The fourth and final week of "In Our Time" at the Strand is estimated at $39,000. "Shine On Harvest Moon" and a stage show headed by Russ Morgan and his band will open there on Friday.

The sixth week of "The Song of Bernadette" at the Rivoli is expected to hit $41,000 and will continue. "Passage to Marseille" will do about $28,000 in its third week at the Hollywood and will hold. The eighth week of "Lifeboat" at the Astor will do approximately $14,000 and will continue. "Jack London" will gross approximately $26,000 in its first week at the Palace and is expected to hold. "The Curse of the Cat People" is expected to gross $12,000 in its first week at the Rialto and will hold over. The second week of the Soviet importation, "No Greater Love" at the New Victoria, is quoted at $12,500 and will continue.

20th-Fox Loses Suit

ST. LOUIS, March 6.—Federal Judge George H. Moore, in a finding of plagiarism against 20th Century-Fox, ruled at the weekend that the film "Alexander's Ragtime Band" was based on an unpublished novel written by Mrs. Marie Dieckhaus, Caspar, Wyo. Mrs. Dieckhaus had testified she submitted the manuscript to Hollywood literary agents in 1937. The film was released in 1938.

Weis Trial Postponed

ATLANTA, March 6.—Trial of the $218,000 damage suit brought by Fred Weis, operator of the Savannah Theatre, Savannah, Ga., against Lucas and Jenkins and the eight major companies, scheduled to start here today, has been postponed to March 13.

Universal Net Up Nearly Million, to $3,759,968

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing year. Domestic revenues increased to $29,112,013, from $25,033,543 in the preceding year, a gain of 16 per cent. Despite war conditions, foreign revenues increased $3,330,736, or approximately 24 per cent, to $17,234,200. Net working capital increased to $16,094,906 from $14,229,423 at the end of the preceding year.

The tax bill of the company amounted to $10,100,447, an average of $27,672 per day. Taxes were the equivalent of $2,463 per employe in the United States and to $17.66 for each share of common stock outstanding at the close of the fiscal year. Commenting on the tax situation, Cowdin stated: "When the war ends, most companies will need capital for improving their plants, replacing machinery, buying raw materials and enlarging payrolls, and to pay a reasonable return for the savings invested in the business—to expand their markets. Existing excess profits taxes make it difficult for companies to retain in the business sufficient earnings for these purposes. If taxes are confiscatory, business will be left after the war with insufficient funds to continue full operations and will, therefore, be unable to provide necessary employment for many. It is important therefore that destructive taxes on all business enterprises be early supplanted by a constructive program which will encourage dynamic business and provide full employment in this country."

Income Distribution

Total income from operations during the year was used as follows: Wages, salaries and other compensation, $22,191,614 or 47.7 per cent of total income; Federal and all other taxes, $10,100,447 or 21.7 per cent; other costs and expenses, $9,749,266 or 21.0 per cent; interest, financing expenses and depreciation, $726,232 or 1.5 per cent; dividends paid, $571,742 or 1.2 per cent; added to earned surplus, $3,183,026 or 6.9 per cent.

The company's total current and working assets at the end of the fiscal year were $24,568,912, including $3,231,677 in cash and the following inventories: productions in progress and charges to future productions, $6,307,914; productions completed but not released, $4,429,958; productions released, $7,270,407. Current liabilities amounted to $8,474,006.

The year's income included $28,731,092 from domestic film rentals and sales, $17,234,200 from foreign film rentals and sales, and $513,235 from sales of accessories. After deducting $20,736,138 for cost of sales and service, the gross profit on operations was $25,791,389, an increase from $18,840,192 in 1942.

The 1943 selling and branch expenses were $10,084,790; general and administrative expenses, $2,164,557, making total domestic expenses of $12,249,347.

Post War Plans

Discussing the post-war outlook, Cowdin stated: "Universal is already projecting plans for post-war production and markets, both domestic and foreign. We expect to be in a sound position whenever the war ends to resume full peace time operations without delay. Obviously, no one can predict the course of business in the post-war era, but it is reasonable to assume that the motion picture will continue as a major form of popular entertainment and increase in usefulness as an educational medium in this country. When the war ends, a large world-wide demand for American films may be confidently expected."

The company's film rentals in Great Britain ran to $10,304,298 in 1943, compared with $8,307,313 in 1942; in Latin America they were $2,406,616, compared with $1,856,406; in Canada, $1,489,352, compared with $1,231,272, and in Australia, $1,456,729, compared with $2,210,913.

To Issue Debentures

PHILADELPHIA, March 6.—Universal Pictures Co., Inc., had on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission today a registration statement covering the proposed issuance and sale through underwriters of $7,500,000 of 3¾ percent sinking fund debentures, due March 1, 1959. Net proceeds of the issue will be applied to the repayment, on or about March 18, 1944, of $5,035,000 face amount of the company's secured notes outstanding under the 1943 loan agreement.

'Lady' to Mark Theatre Dedication

MINNEAPOLIS, March 6. — The Northwest premiere of Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" will mark the opening of the new Radio City Theatre here Wednesday. The recently reconstructed theatre will combine the Northwest's largest motion picture and radio broadcasting facilities, housing 4,400. The mezzanine will house new studios of KSTP, NBC affiliate.

Formerly the Minnesota, the house will be operated by Minnesota Amusement Co. The dedication-premiere will be attended by many industry leaders, including Leonard Goldenson, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations; John Balaban, head of Balaban & Katz, Chicago, and A. H. Blank, president of Tri-States Theates, Des Moines.

Extortionists Denied Bail Pending Appeal

The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals here denied at the weekend a motion by six former members of the Capone Chicago gang to admit them to bail pending their appeal from a conviction of extortion of over $1,000,000 from major film companies.

The decision was handed down by Judges Learned Hand, Thomas W. Swan and Augustus N. Hand.

Owen on Sales Tour

Hugh Owen, Paramount Eastern division manager, has left here for a week of sales meetings in Charlotte, Atlanta and New Orleans. Plans for "Lady in the Dark," "Going My Way" and other new product will be discussed.

Production Is Down to 30 at Coast Studios

HOLLYWOOD, Mar. 6.—Production hit a new low in the past week when seven pictures finished camera work and six new ones started to bring the total number in work down to 30. The previous week had seen eight finished, five started, and 33 in work. The roundup follows:

Columbia

Started: "Calling All Stars" with Lynn Merrick, Larry Parks, Judy Clark, Danny O'Neil.
Shooting: "Mr. Winkle Goes to War," "Pilebuck."

M-G-M

Started: "30 Seconds Over Tokyo" with Van Johnson, Robert Walker, Phyllis Thaxter, Tim Murdock.
Shooting: "Secrets in the Dark" "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Seventh Cross," "National Velvet."

Paramount

Shooting: "Practically Yours," "Bring on the Girls."
Finished: "Incendiary Blonde."

P. R. C.

Shooting: "Minstrel Man."
Finished: "Shake Hands with Murder."

RKO-Radio

Shooting: "Heavenly Days," "Manhattan Serenade," "Casanova Brown" (International).

Republic

Started: "Tucson Raiders" with Bill Elliott, George (Gabby) Hayes, Bobby Blake, Peggy Stewart.
Shooting: "Yellow Rose of Texas."
Finished: "Silent Partners," "Storm Over Lisbon."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Wing and a Prayer," "The Keys of the Kingdom," "Sweet and Low-down," "Wilson," "In the Meantime, Darling."

United Artists

Finished: "Sensations of 1944" (Andrew Stone).

Universal

Shooting: "The Ghost Catchers," "South of Dixie," "The Climax."
Finished: "Jungle Woman."

Warners

Started: "The Conspirators" with Paul Henreid, Hedy Lamarr, Sidney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, Carol Thurston, George Coulouris. "The Doughgirls" with Ann Sheridan, Alexis Smith, Jack Carson, Jane Wyman, Irene Manning, Eve Arden. "To Have and Have Not" with Humphrey Bogart, Walter Brennan, Dolores Moran, Olga San Juan.
Shooting: "Cinderella Jones."
Finished: "My Reputation."

Knows No Conspiracy

CHICAGO, March 6.—James C. Coston, general manager of Warner Theatres here, testifying for the defense today in the trial of the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust suit against Balaban and Katz and the major companies, said he did not know of any conspiracy against the plaintiff's house. Other witnesses were Allen Usher, Paramount district manager, and Harold Beck, M-G-M salesman.

Special Effort on Pledges as Drive Of Red Cross Nears

(Continued from page 1)

over by G. Ralph Branton, Tri-States general manager, also heard E. L. Alperson, RKO Theatres general manager, stress the importance of "collections at every performance, every day." He suggested that the Red Cross trailer be screened immediately before the most important feature in double-feature houses.

Speakers at Cincinnati are Harry Kalmine, Martin Smith and Bob Mochrie of the touring group, and Col. Arthur Frudenfeld, local exhibitor chairman, and Harris Dudelson, distributor chairman.

The Los Angeles gathering heard Ned Depinet, Harry Brandt, Charles P. Skouras, local exhibitor chairman, and Fred Greenberg, distributor chairman.

Eastman Pledges $115,000 to Drive

Rochester, N. Y., March 6.—A contribution of $115,000 to the Red Cross War Fund drive was made today by Eastman Kodak, an increase of $40,000 over the 1943 pledge. Bausch and Lomb Optical Co. pledged $23,000, an $8,000 increase.

Union-Majors' Meetings Will Run Three Weeks

(Continued from page 1)

take at least three weeks. Agreements reached will be retroactive to Jan. 1.

The producers are expected to meet today to discuss IATSE proposals made at yesterday's meetings. IATSE representatives are also expected to hold conferences of their own today.

IATSE proposals discussed at yesterday's meeting include the unions' proposal that producers pay five per cent of their gross checks to a "retirement, vacation and health benefit fund" to be controlled by the unions through a board of trustees for distribution among workers. It is estimated that this would cost the producers about $1,500,000 a year.

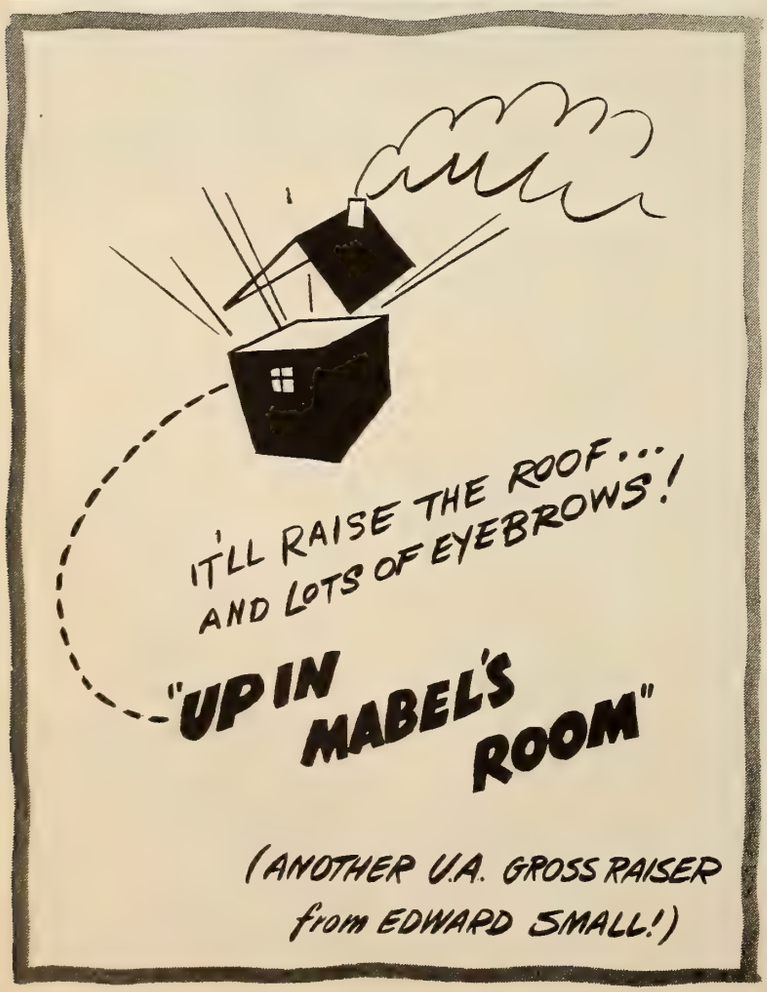
Approximately 60 union and 75 producer representatives attended yesterday's session. Among company heads who attended were Barney Balaban, Paramount president; Nicholas M. Schenck, M-G-M president; N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president; Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president; Joseph Bernhard, Warner Bros. vice-president; W. C. Michel, 20th Century-Fox vice-president, and A. Schneider, Columbia treasurer. Richard Walsh, IATSE international president, and Louis Krouse, general secretary and treasurer, headed the delegation of IATSE representatives.

At the conclusion of yesterday's meeting, Casey disclosed that the meeting between the producers and representatives of the seven AFL internationals who are signatories to the studio basic labor agreement will start next Monday at his office here but that meetings between producers and representatives of the Conference of Studio Unions, comprising seven other AFL locals, originally set for Friday, have been postponed with no new date having yet been set.

Rental Ceiling Not In Canada Program

(Continued on page 2)

all other subjects, such as theatre zoning, releasing priorities and clearances, according to a reliable informant. At the same time, the progress in this direction has aroused general satisfaction as being in line with the desired principle of regulation within the industry, as opposed to government control of the operation of theatres and film exchanges.



WB Puts Damper On Radio 'Previews'

(Continued from page 1)

and investment depreciates to a marked degree in a mere half-hour radio broadcast, "definitely detracting from its screen value to the exhibitor."

"We are basically in the business of selling pictures to exhibitors," Evelove stated. "We are going to protect exhibitors and ourselves in connection with radio use of our story properties. Radio doesn't do anything for a story property nor for the film's star," he added.

The studio, however, declared that the new policy does not apply to scripts sought in furtherance of the war effort, for bond and Red Cross drives and other patriotic causes, nor to charity benefit programs such as the Motion Picture Relief Fund and Army and Navy Relief.

The first application of the new price on scripts was Warners' demand that an advertising agency pay $5,000 for the script of "Destination Tokyo" and $3,000 for "One Way Passage."

RKO Meet to Vote On Pension, Options

(Continued from page 1)

closing sales price of the stock on Aug. 2, 1943. The closing price yesterday was 9⅛. The options are not exercisable for more than 35,000 shares each within the first five years, nor more than 40,000 shares within the first six years. Recipients of the pensions must be in the employ of the company for at least a year after the special stockholders' meeting, next Tuesday, and must then be employed by the corporation or a subsidiary.

$5,980 from Hart Tribute

Some $5,980 was raised for music recordings for the armed forces at the weekend tribute sponsored by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and the American Theatre Wing, to the late Larry Hart, composer.

CIO Challenges AFL Over Film Industry White-Collar 'Raid'

(Continued from page 1)

clusively in *Motion Picture Daily* March 2.

In pointing to the no-raiding agreement between the AFL and CIO, Young's statement disassociated the MPOE's action from "any responsible AFL body."

The MPOE-AFL, representing over 400 Warner home office employees, last week announced its intention of organizing Paramount, Columbia and United Artists home offices where SOPEG has held contracts as the collective bargaining agent for a year and a half. Young's statement also reveals that the MPOE is attempting to organize Loew's home office, another SOPEG shop.

Young accused the MPOE of "trying to disrupt the stable and harmonious labor relations that now exist between the industry and the CIO," and stated that SOPEG had "never raided another union and had attempted to maintain harmonious relations" with the industry AFL unions.

Says SOPEG Victor

However, he stated that SOPEG had been the victor in a dispute with the IATSE-AFL over the office workers at three New York exchanges (Loew's, 20th Century-Fox and United Artists), and recalled that the AFL had not succeeded in winning industry office workers in 1941-42 when SOPEG was organized.

In addition to Paramount, Loew's, Columbia and United Artists, SOPEG represents home office employees at 20th Century-Fox, RKO, Republic and National Screen, as well as office workers in five New York exchanges, Deluxe Laboratories, and a number of subsidiaries of major companies, a total of over 3,000 workers.

Schaefer Heads Yeshiva Drive

(Continued from page 1)

Hotel Astor here in April, 1939, when the industry was first apprised of the place of Yeshiva College among American educational institutions.

There was announced at this dinner the establishment of scholarships by motion picture companies and their executives: Jack Cohn, Columbia; Barney Balaban, Paramount; Nate Blumberg, Universal; George J. Schaefer, then at RKO; George P. Skouras, Skouras Theatres, and Van Schmus. These scholarships were given, among others, to a number of students who had been denied the right to study in nations which no longer exist.

"The industry has contributed $50,000 to the college," it was disclosed by Schaefer. "Last year 18 scholarships were established." Members on the fifth drive committee are: Balaban, Blumberg, Gus Eyssell, Radio City Music Hall; Irving H. Greenfield; Loew's; Arthur Israel, Paramount; Harry M. Kalmine, Warner Bros.; Malcolm Kingsberg, RKO; Charles D. Prutzman, Universal; Herman Robbins, National Screen; Samuel Rosen, Fabian Theatres; Abe Schneider, Columbia, and George P. Skouras, Skouras Theatres.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
proudly announces the

TRADE SHOWING

NEW YORK—NEW JERSEY TERRITORIES

CLARENCE BROWN's

PRODUCTION *of*

"THE WHITE CLIFFS"





Starring

IRENE DUNNE

with

ALAN MARSHAL

and with

RODDY McDOWALL • FRANK MORGAN
VAN JOHNSON • C. AUBREY SMITH
DAME MAY WHITTY • GLADYS COOPER

Directed by CLARENCE BROWN
Produced by SIDNEY FRANKLIN

Screen Play by Claudine West, Jan Lustig and George Froeschel
Based on "The White Cliffs" by Alice Duer Miller

A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

At the

NORMANDIE THEATRE

51 East 53rd Street
New York, N.Y.

Wednesday

MARCH 8th

2:30 P. M.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

which, during 1943, has combined

noteworthy contributions to its

art with distinguished service

to its Country

TECHNICOLOR MOTION PICTURE CORPORATION

Herbert T. Kalmus, President and General Manager

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.
TRADE SHOWINGS



WALT DISNEY'S
FIRST FULL-LENGTH TECHNICOLOR FEATURE
Snow White
AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

BRANCH	PLACE OF SHOWING	ADDRESS	DAY AND DATE	TIME
Albany	Fox Projection Room	1052 Bway.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Atlanta	RKO Projection Room	191 Walton St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Boston	RKO Projection Room	122 Arlington St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Buffalo	Fox Projection Room	290 Franklin St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Charlotte	Fox Projection Room	308 So. Church St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Chicago	RKO Projection Room	1300 So. Wabash Ave.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Dallas	Paramount Projection Rm.	412 So. Harwood St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Denver	Paramount Projection Rm.	2100 Stout St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Des Moines	Fox Projection Room	1300 High St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Detroit	Blumenthal Projection Rm.	2310 Cass Ave.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Kansas City	Paramount Projection Rm.	1802 Wyandote	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Los Angeles	RKO Projection Room	1980 So. Vermont Ave.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Memphis	Fox Projection Room	151 Vance Ave.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Milwaukee	Warner Projection Room	212 W. Wisconsin Ave.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Minneapolis	Fox Projection Room	1015 Currie Ave.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
New Haven	Fox Projection Room	40 Whiting St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
New Orleans	Fox Projection Room	200 So. Liberty St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
New York	RKO Projection Room	630—9th Ave.	Mon. 3/13	11:00 A.M.
				2:30 P.M.
Oklahoma City	Fox Projection Room	10 No. Lee St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Omaha	Fox Projection Room	1502 Davenport St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Philadelphia	RKO Projection Room	250 No. 13th St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Pittsburgh	RKO Projection Room	1623 Blvd. of Allies	Mon. 3/13	2:30 P.M.
Portland	Star Pre-view Room	925 N.W. 19th St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
St. Louis	S'Renco Projection Room	3143 Olive St.	Tues. 3/14	11:30 A.M.
Salt Lake City	Fox Projection Room	216 E. 1st St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
San Francisco	RKO Projection Room	251 Hyde St.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Seattle	Jewel Box Projection Rm.	2318—2nd Ave.	Mon. 3/13	2:30 P.M.
Sioux Falls	Hollywood Theatre	212 No. Philips Ave.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.
Washington	Fox Projection Room	932 New Jersey Ave.	Mon. 3/13	10:30 A.M.

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
RED CROSS WEEK
MARCH 23rd thru 29th

16th Annual Award

ACADEMY of MOTION PICTURE ARTS and SCIENCES

Congratulations
to all of the

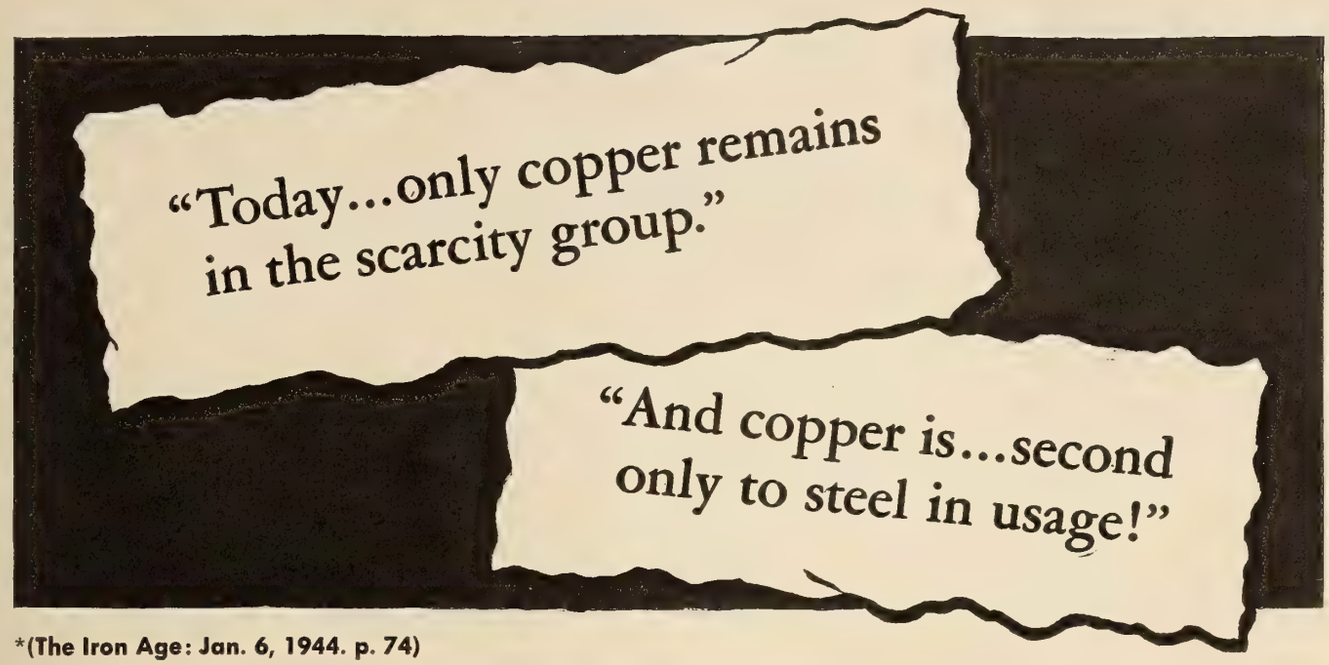
ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS

EASTMAN FILM
BRULATOUR SERVICE

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC.

FORT LEE ▪ CHICAGO ▪ HOLLYWOOD

TWO QUOTES* TO REMEMBER!



*(The Iron Age: Jan. 6, 1944. p. 74)

TODAY, "usage" refers primarily to war usage, and "scarcity" is a word of challenge to every American!

That's why we remind you again to save the copper that drops from your Victory and "Orotip" Carbons to the bottom of your lamp housings . . . and to strip off the copper that is left on the stubs you remove from their holders.

Then turn it all in to your distributor, or to your local salvage headquarters, so that it can be put back into war-essential products.

For additional economy of copper, and carbons too, a bulletin describing completely the operation of the Victory High Intensity Carbons . . . "National," "Suprex," and "Orotip,". . . has been in general distribution. If you have not received your copy, write today. National Carbon Company, Inc., Cleveland 1, Ohio, Dept. 9c.

The words "National," "Suprex," and "Orotip" are registered trade-marks of National Carbon Company, Inc.

BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS

NATIONAL CARBON COMPANY, INC.

Unit of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation

CARBON PRODUCTS DIVISION, Cleveland 1, Ohio UCC **New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago, San Francisco**

My Sincere Thanks to Everyone
Who helped in the making of

"CASABLANCA"

MICHAEL CURTIZ

Best Direction
Award
"CASABLANCA"

1943
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL AWARDS BY
THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

My Gratitude to All Concerned

HAL B. WALLIS

Winner of Irving G. Thalberg Award

Producer of

"CASABLANCA"

Winner of Academy Award for the Best Picture of the Year

1943

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL AWARDS BY

THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES



COLUMBIA PICTURES

IS PROUD THAT

PAUL LUKAS

WHO RECEIVED THE ACADEMY AWARD FOR

THE BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR

(IN WARNER BROS.' "WATCH ON THE RHINE")

IS THE STAR OF COLUMBIA'S

ADDRESS UNKNOWN*



*SOON TO BE RELEASED

FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 47 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1944 TEN CENTS

Millions for Theatre, Other U. S. Projects

$127,500,000 for New Community Facilities

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The House Appropriations Committee today reported a $500,000,000 deficiency appropriation bill carrying $127,500,000 for construction by the Federal Works Agency of community facilities in war manufacturing areas, including motion picture theatres and other recreational forms. This is after a cut of $22,500,000 from the total requested.

The FWA already has a program for expenditure of $58,000,000 on commercial recrea-

(*Continued on page* 14)

Studio Labor Heads Discuss 'IA' Proposal

The producers' studio labor representatives met with Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, here yesterday to discuss some of the proposals made by the IATSE on Monday for a new contract for 15,000 studio craftsmen in 15 locals. Also attending yesterday's sessions were Major L. E. Thompson, RKO; Frank Phelps, Warner Bros., and Joseph R. Vogel, Loew's.

Company heads are to meet this morning at Casey's office here to continue discussions of the IATSE proposals and a meeting between the producers and IATSE representatives is set for this afternoon, presumably to hear additional IATSE proposals.

Stearn, Kelly Talk Eagle-Lion Deal

A deal whereby Bert M. Stearn, formerly Western division manager for United Artists, would become associated with J. Arthur Rank's new Eagle-Lion Films here in a high sales capacity has been in negotiation between Stearn and Arthur Kelly, president of Eagle-Lion here, it was learned yesterday. Negotiations will be resumed in a week upon Kelly's return from Hollywood.

Stearn now heads Co-operative Theatre Service, Pittsburgh.

47 War Communities Need Film Theatres, U. S. Finds

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Eleven more communities, located in the San Francisco Bay area, in which opportunities exist for additional exhibition facilities because of war-and-defense activities were reported tonight by the recreation section of the Office of Civilian Requirements, bringing to 47 the number of communities thus far disclosed through a nation wide survey to be in need of new film theatres.

In making the California list public, George McMurphey, chief of the section, urged that interested persons promptly contact the OCR so that no time may be needlessly lost in providing essential recreation facilities for war-congested communities.

The OCR, he said, is anxious to hear from all who may be interested,

(*Continued on page* 14)

Industry Sets Red Cross Pace: Kalmine

"Nothing done in any other industry compares with the work of exhibitors on the War Activities Committee," Harry Kalmine of the motion picture officials' drive touring group, told upwards of 250 distributor-exhibitor representatives at a 1944 Red Cross War Fund drive luncheon in the Hotel Carter, Cleveland, yesterday, it was reported here by War Activities headquarters. Another meeting was held at the same time in Omaha.

Kalmine said that "the voluntary enlistment of thousands of theatres for one cause within a few weeks is a

(*Continued on page* 14)

40-Hour Week for Atlanta and Boston

The Paramount home office was advised yesterday that the regional War Manpower Commission at Atlanta had granted an exemption from the 48-hour week to the company's exchange in that city following the submission of representations and a petition to the regional board by C. J. Scollard, Paramount home office executive.

The order is regarded as a precedent for all other film exchanges in Atlanta.

Distribution home offices also were advised yesterday by the regional WMC at Boston that film exchanges in that city are regarded as exempt from the 48-hour week order for that area. The regional board said that the order was designed to apply only to "essential industries."

2,000 in RKO Are Pension Eligibles; New Officers' Pacts

Total first year costs of benefits under RKO's proposed employe pension plan will be $450,000 for the estimated 2,000 employes eligible to participate in the plan, according to a notice of a special meeting of RKO stockholders to be held at Dover, Del., next Tuesday to act on a resolution approving the directors' action in establishing the plan.

If approved by stockholders, the plan also must be approved by the Treasury Department prior to next Dec. 31 to become effective.

The notice to RKO stockholders discloses that the company has entered into new employment contracts

(*Continued on page* 14)

Hoffman, Pioneer Producer, Passes

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—M. H. Hoffman, formerly president of Liberty National Pictures and a film pioneer well known for years in independent production, died here today.

Born in Chicago on March 20, 1881, Hoffman, who received his education at the College of the City of New York and New York University, studied painting and singing and taught languages and practiced law before entering the motion picture business in 1910.

Hoffman's industry connection began

(*Continued on page* 14)

To Reelect Universal Directors Today

All directors of Universal Pictures Co., Inc., are scheduled for reelection at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in Wilmington, Del., today. Reelection of directors is the principal business on the agenda for the meeting.

Directors of the company are: Nate J. Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, D. C. Collins, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, William German, John J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutzman, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rodgers, Daniel M. Sheaffer, W. H. Taylor, Jr., and Clifford Work.

Global Plan Weighed for Film Industry

Favor Representation in World Capitals

The appointment of competent industry representatives in all strategic world capitals at the earliest possible date is under discussion among home office foreign department heads and at this stage is understood to be advocated by a majority of them, it was learned here yesterday.

Present indications are that the industry's foreign ambassadors would be aligned with the MPPDA and, thus, empowered to act for the industry as occasions arise in much the same manner as F. W. Allport of the MPPDA foreign department speaks for the industry in London. If the plan materializes, and there is reason to believe at this stage that it will,

(*Continued on page* 14)

Graham Eyes Spain, Portugal for Para.

Robert L. Graham, Paramount manager for Mexico, has arrived in Spain on special assignment, according to word received here by the home office. Graham will survey Spain and Portugal and report back in New York in several months to John W. Hicks, Jr., foreign operations vice-president.

In Lisbon, Graham was joined by R. C. Alexander, assistant sales supervisor for Paramount's British organization, who will accompany him.

Hays, Roosevelt Chat About Films

Washington, March 7.—Will Hays was a visitor at the White House today, bringing President Roosevelt up-to-date on what the film industry is doing to further the war effort.

The MPPDA president, who arrived here yesterday, as disclosed yesterday in *Motion Picture Daily* was one of the very few persons with whom the President conferred today. He makes periodic visits to the White House to keep Roosevelt apprised of the industry's war cooperation.

Hays will return to New York tomorrow.

Personal Mention

CORP. MAX McCOY, formerly of the Paramount Omaha exchange, has arrived in New York from Ashford General Hospital, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., carrying the Purple Heart Medal, an Oak Leaf Cluster and a recommendation for a Silver Star, following service overseas.

•

PAUL LAZARUS, JR., United Artists advertising-publicity director, passed his physical yesterday.

•

LEONARD DERENE, formerly manager of Brandt theatres here, sends greetings to former colleagues here from a forward position in New Guinea where he was recently promoted to corporal.

•

JEANNETTE SAWYER of 20th-Fox's Eastern publicity department, was informed yesterday that her daughter, MRS. JEAN HARRIS, is now a lieutenant (j. g.) in the Waves.

•

WILLIAM C. GEHRING, 20th Century-Fox sales manager, is visiting the Los Angeles exchange and will return to the home office sometime next week.

•

SIDNEY TOWELL, 20th Century-Fox vice-president and treasurer, is due back sometime next week from the Coast.

•

JACK CARTER, manager of the Baltimore Newsreel Theatre, has been inducted into the Army. MORRIS FURLINGER succeeds him.

•

WINSTON BARRON, Paramount Canadian sales promotion manager, is in New York.

•

SAM DEMBOW, Paramount home office theatre executive, is in Minneapolis.

•

WILLIAM K. JENKINS, head of Lucas and Jenkins, is visiting New York.

•

JOEL MARGOLIS, former Baltimore Century Theatre manager, has moved to Norfolk.

•

CLIFFORD PORTER, general manager of Jefferson Amusement Co., Beaumont, Tex., is in New York.

•

ARTHUR WILLI, RKO's Eastern talent scout, is in Chicago.

Cleveland Owners Pass Tax to Public

CLEVELAND, March 7.—A general five-cent boost in admission prices at all subsequent run theatres in Greater Cleveland will go into effect on April 1 as a result of the new Federal tax. Because Ohio theatre owners operate under a three percent state gross tax, the new Federal tax has caused confusion over a uniform scale. But in all instances the new Federal tax will be passed on to the public.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, March 7

ACQUISITION by Republic of its 26th exchange in the United States, giving the company only six to go for complete nationalization, represents another addition to the structure Herb Yates and Jimmy Grainger have been constructing for some time. They will stop only when the circle is rounded and when the company is full-fledged in the field with its own offices in all key cities. That much has been in the cards since 'way back.

But part of the plan for the future is centered significantly here in Hollywood. The steppings indicated by "Flying Tigers," "In Old Oklahoma" and "The Fighting Seabees" must be gauged properly as indications of what is to come.

■

It is in Yates' fixed determination to increase Republic's high-budget attractions until he and it arrive at from eight to ten at the outset. While this is the objective upon which current gunsights are trained, there is neither reason nor intention to stop at that fixed quota, or any other.

Nevertheless, the realization appears to be amply around that conversion from one type of program to another providing for big ones at an average cost ranging between $500,000 and $600,000 a throw takes time. Therefore, the moveover will be steady, but not necessarily impetuous, which is a way of remarking no ill-considered efforts will be undertaken to remodel whole Republic worlds in one fell swoop.

■

In this situation resides one more development. It concerns Yates. Three or four trips annually to the studio are routine with him. But under expanded negative costs he intends to spend much more time at the production controls.

Indication: A "field office"—actually a portable dressing room—set upon the stage holding "Storm Over Lisbon" which, incidentally, is one of those in the half-million-or-more class. The day of this visit with Yates found him conferring with director, technical crews, set designers.

In a word, the works.

■ ■

It was a Hollywood audience, of course. Yet the reception greeting the first public showing—on this Coast, anyway—of "Up in Arms" heaped all sorts of accolades on Danny Kaye, whose first feature this is. He did a number of Vitaphone shorts for Sam Sax back in the Brooklyn days, but nobody talks much about that.

Kaye, whose mimicry and fine comedy talent have been appreciated by this department since Danny's intimate revues around New York, does the rare thing of establishing himself as a star in one picture. He's really immense.

In any Goldwyn film, Sam is always very much up in front. But very much up in front on this one, too, was Elliott Nugent, who writes, directs and acts stage plays and directs and acts in motion pictures with trapeze-like ease. He directed "Up in Arms" and did it exceedingly well by keeping Kaye, and lots of him, before the camera. The answer is all is okay when Kaye is around. Things incline to slip when he is not.

■ ■

Buddy De Sylva to Preston Sturges: "But you can't do that. It would be an anachronism."

S. to De S.: "What did you say?"

De S. to S.: "I said it would be an anachronism."

S. to De S.: "I get it. You're really a highbrow posing as a lowbrow."

■ ■

Frank Ross paid Lloyd C. Douglas $100,000 for the film rights of "The Robe" which won't hit production until later in the year and a single theatre until sometime in 1945.

The report is Ross can sell his rights for $400,000. The fact is he won't.

■ ■

Telephone and wire charges amassed by the committee handling the Fourth War Loan Drive ran to $35,000. Source, and publicly: Charlie Skouras, national chairman of the industry committee.

■ ■

Eddie Cantor tells the story of a woman who visited an Army hospital in San Francisco and there asked a soldier where he lost his leg. "I didn't lose it. I traded it in for a clear conscience."

Eddie describes this as one of the great commentaries of the war. Perhaps it has been published elsewhere. No matter. It rates these lines here.

Seek Review of RWLB Decision

Twentieth Century-Fox, Loew's and United Artists have filed a joint petition with the National War Labor Board asking for a review of the decision of the Regional War Labor Board here which granted 107 office workers in the New York exchanges of these companies retroactive wage increases and other benefits. The workers are represented by Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO.

The specific awards upon which the three companies are asking for a NWLB review are: those which grant the workers retroactive increases prior to May 6, 1943, going back to Sept. 1942 in the case of 20th-Fox and Loew's, and to Dec. 1943 in the case of United Artists; the fact that the dues check-off sought by SOPEG was referred to a WLB staff hearing officer; the action of the RWLB in directing that the parties arrange a mutually acceptable system of job classifications and evaluations; and, finally, the regional board's ruling that all disputes not settled by the grievance machinery be referred to an arbitrator appointed by the New York State Mediation Board.

The only clauses in the RWLB ruling from which the companies are not appealing are those granting SOPEG maintenance-of-membership and a 15 percent wage increase retroactive to May 6, 1943.

The original award was handed down by the RWLB on Feb. 22 with the companies given 14 days to take an appeal to Washington.

Saunders, O'Shea, Simons to Chicago

E. M. Saunders, M-G-M assistant general sales manager; E. K. O'Shea, Eastern division sales head, and M. L. Simons, editor of *The Distributor*, M-G-M sales publication, will leave New York tomorrow to attend the company's five-day sales-and-war conference at the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, March 11-15.

H. M. Richey, exhibitor relations head, will speak today in Buffalo on the Red Cross drive. He will leave Buffalo tonight for Chicago, arriving there tomorrow for conferences with William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager.

Korda Is Setting Two M-G-M Films

Second and third pictures on the schedule of Sir Alexander Korda, British production head for M-G-M, are expected to be determined as the result of conferences here this week with home office executives. Korda deferred plans to return to London over the weekend in order to participate in the conferences.

The two will follow "Perfect Strangers," starring Robert Donat and Deborah Kerr, now in production at Denham Studios, London. Wesley Ruggles is directing.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address. "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.


M-G-Merriment
William
POWELL
Hedy
LAMARR-VELOUS!

Nature and M-G-M present

"The Heavenly Body"

When it twinkles
In the movie sky
There'll be twinkles
In every eye!



WILLIAM POWELL • HEDY LAMARR
"THE HEAVENLY BODY"

with James Craig • Fay Bainter • Henry O'Neill • Spring Byington
Screen Play by Michael Arlen and Walter Reisch • Adaptation by Harry Kurnitz • Directed by Alexander Hall • Produced by Arthur Hornblow, Jr. • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

. . . of course it's one of M-G-M's peppy "Vitamin 12"

"Calling All Patriotic Showmen! Red Cross Drive March 23rd Thru 29th"

LITHO U S A

Projector Motors Are Now Available

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Motor generator sets for 35mm projectors have been classified by the War Production Board as current converter devices and may now be acquired by exhibitors and sold by dealers under the provisions of Limitation Order L-325, it was announced here today by Allen G. Smith, chief of the WPB theatre equipment section.

Under the terms of the order, exhibitors may acquire this equipment without any formality and dealers may secure authority to sell and buy from manufacturers in the same way as they sell and buy projectors and other equipment.

A production program for the manufacture of a limited number of motor generator sets has been prepared by Smith for WPB approval. However, he said, the number of sets so produced will be very small although it is hoped it will be adequate.

Smith estimated that approximately 25 per cent of all exhibitors, including a considerable number of the larger theatres, use motor generators instead of rectifiers. There has been no production since the beginning of the war and, as in the case of projectors, many generators are rapidly approaching the point of deterioration where they no longer can be kept in service.

$1,300,000 'Gate' at Nassau Bond Dinner

Nassau County concluded its Fourth War Loan drive last night with a $1,000,000 war bond dinner at the Garden City Hotel, Garden City, L. I. The affair was conceived and developed by Fred J. Schwartz, vice president of Century Circuit, with the assistance of Myron Siegel, Century's advertising-publicity director, as a finale to the efforts made by the county's motion picture industry to further sales of individual bonds.

Over 300 persons bought $1,300,000 worth of bonds to attend the dinner and added about another $1,000,000 through bids on nylon hose, steaks and other collectors' items.

Lew Lehr acted as master of ceremonies and Powers models conducted the bond auction. Capt. Glenn Miller and his Army Air Force Technical Training Command band played special hits to swell the total of sales.

J. Russel Sprague, Nassau County executive, was honorary chairman of the affair and Surrogate Leone D. Howell, chairman of the Nassau War Finance Committee, was dinner chairman. Dinner music was furnished by Ted Fio Rito and his orchestra.

Hays to Report on Post-War March 22

The industry's present and post-war position at home and abroad will be one of the highlights of Will Hays' annual report to members of the MPPDA when they meet here on March 22, it is understood. The meeting is scheduled to reelect directors, who will meet subsequently to elect officers.

Hays' report will also be replete with voluminous facts and figures, opinions and observations on accomplishments of the Hays organization and the industry in and out of the war during the past year.

Promote Films in 31 Languages Here

Film publicity from studios and home offices is now being translated into 31 foreign language groups for 10,000,000 readers of 1,100 foreign language papers in this country, with film companies also spending considerably for foreign-language advertisements.

The language groups include: Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Belgian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Czechoslovakian, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Ladino, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portugese, Roumanian, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Ukranian, Yiddish.

Peskay First Witness In Prefect Trial

NEW HAVEN, March 7.—Trial of the $5,000,000 anti-trust suit against Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, RKO and others brought by Prefect Theatres, Fairfield Holding Corp. and Greenfield, Inc., got underway in Federal Court here today.

A motion by the defendants to dismiss Fairfield and Greenfield as plaintiffs for failure to state any cause of action was denied on the grounds that those two "unfeasibly filed on the verge of trial."

Ed Peskay, first witness for the plaintiffs, reported conversations with M-G-M executives dealing with his attempts, while a Connecticut theatre operator, to secure earlier runs and better clearance. Among those who are understood to be under subpoena to appear during the trial are Nicholas M. Schenck, J. Robin Rubin, John J. O'Connor, Neil Agnew, Joseph Unger, Gradwell Sears, Carl Leserman, A. Montague and Nate J. Blumberg.

'U' Sets Largest Ad Drive on 'Boys'

Universal has scheduled the largest budget in its history for the promotion of "Follow the Boys," the home office advertising department announced here yesterday. Trade showings at the Normandie Theatre, New York, on March 15, and the Palace on March 27 have been set. Other exchange cities will see the film about April 3.

A Coast-to-Coast radio program jointly sponsored by Universal and various theatrical organizations will be used to promote the film, which recounts activities of the Hollywood Victory Committee in entertaining the armed forces. Radio will also be used in advance of playdates in key cities.

Mrs. Izola Page Dies

KEENE, N. H., March 7.—Mrs. Izola Forrester Page, 64, scenarist, author and former feature writer on the *New York World,* died yesterday at her home here. Her mother, Ogarita Booth Hills, actress, was related to John Wilkes Booth. Mrs. Page is survived by her husband, Mann Page, four daughters, two sons and a sister.

25-State 'Dimes' Total: $2,000,024

Complete returns from 25 states in the motion picture theatres' "March of Dimes" drive total $2,000,024, compared to the $1,191,000 collected in the same territories last year, Ernest Emerling, campaign publicity director, reported here yesterday, concluding that on this basis the $4,000,000 extended quota will be topped.

Among late state reports, Rodney Toups, state chairman for Louisiana, listed $74,480, compared with $12,801 in 1943, an increase of 600 per cent; The District of Columbia's 57 theatres turned in $84,472, an average of $1,482 per theatre, nearly three times as much as 1943's collections of $31,000; R. H. Kennedy, state chairman for Alabama, reported $40,477 against last year's $6,570; Fred Dolle, Kentucky chairman, says the state total will be in excess of $44,000, against 1943's $19,289; George Gett of M. A. Shea Theatres, reports collections of $18,571 this year.

Additional states reporting include: Maine, $25,510 ($12,315 in 1943); New Hampshire, $12,338 ($4,288 in 1943), and Vermont, $6,238 ($2,184 in 1943).

Bioff Coast Trial Put Off to Sept. 4

LOS ANGELES, March 7.—Federal Judge Ralph Jenney continued to Sept. 4 the trial of William Bioff here on charges of evading $84,442 in income tax payments in 1936-1937, upon representations of the U. S. Attorney's office that the convicted racketeer's testimony in the pending mail fraud conspiracy cases against the Chicago hoodlums is vital to successful prosecution.

In a letter presented in court by deputy U. S. Attorney Charles Carr from Boris Kostelanetz, Special Assistant U. S. Attorney in New York, the latter wrote that the success of the mail fraud conspiracy cases involving diversion of more than $1,000,000 of IATSE funds into the hands of Chicago union racketeers depends largely on Bioff's testimony.

Rockefeller to Tour Central America

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Nelson Rockefeller, Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs, will leave Washington tomorrow for a two-week tour of Central America, during which he will inspect various activities of his agency in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

This will be Rockefeller's first official trip to Central America. He will travel by air and will be accompanied by Frank A. Jamieson, assistant co-ordinator.

Butterfield to Talk On War Dep't Plans

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Lieut. Allyn Butterfield, chief of the feature film section of the War Department, will go to New York Thursday to discuss "some War Department motion picture ideas" with International Pictures and other film interests, it was made known here today.

Butterfield also will view "Winged Victory," now under production by 20th Century-Fox, on which he shortly will be handling the script.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 7

LOUIS B. MAYER has been named by Gov. Earl Warren to serve with the leaders of other industries as an adviser to the state Reconstruction and Reemployment Committee, which will plan the postwar restoration and development of industry in California.

•

Examiner Charles Ryan, overruling objections of the Screen Players Union counsel, has granted the Screen Actors Guild the right to intervene in the National Labor Relations Board hearing on the petition of SPU for a collective bargaining election to determine representation for extras.

•

Hoagy Carmichael, composer of "Stardust," will make his film debut as an actor in Warners' "To Have and Have Not," new Humphrey Bogart production based on Ernest Hemingway's book.

•

"The Impatient Years," a comedy based on wartime marriage, has been added by Columbia to Irving Cummings' schedule. Jean Arthur will star.

•

Fannie Brice has been signed by M-G-M for its version of "Ziegfeld Follies.

•

Frances Kish, editor of *Movies,* is here for two weeks.

•

Ned E. Depinet, RKO Radio president, left here today for the East.

•

Harry Brand, 20th-Fox studio advertising-publicity chief, left for New York today.

'Hargrove' Premiere Got Unusual 'Breaks'

Unusual promotion "breaks" were achieved by Jack Austin, manager of the Carolina Theatre, Charlotte, N. C., in conjunction with the recent world premiere of M-G-M's "See Here, Private Hargrove." Austin was assisted by M-G-M exploiteers Al Burks and Ken Prickett.

Story of the premiere broke on the front page, second section of the *Charlotte News* with a banner headline. Civic officials attended a luncheon the following day. A "Marion Hargrove Week" was proclaimed; a street was named in Hargrove's honor; a banner stretched across the main street of Charlotte; spot announcements over station WSOC, and a 30-minute "salute" performance from the stage of the theatre, and many others. Charlotte is Private Hargrove's home town.

Closing Jackson Park Arguments Today

CHICAGO, March 7.—Judge Michael Igoe has scheduled for tomorrow the closing arguments in the Jackson Park Theatre's anti-trust suit against Balaban and Katz and the major distributors. Defense testimony was concluded today by James E. Coston of Warner Brothers Theatres and Tom Gillam, 20th-Fox branch manager. The last plaintiff's witnesses were Florence E. Bigelow, one of the four Jackson Park owners, and James Malooly, realtor.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 7

THE industry not only maintains a leading part in all war efforts, such as bond drives, Red Cross, USO-Camps Shows, but now it has stepped into the lead in post-war matters vital to the welfare of returning servicemen. This is through Civilian Servicemen, a group of Southern California business leaders organized to provide soldiers and sailors convalescing in hospitals with a program of practical business knowledge and guidance in availing themselves of vocational training for return to civil life. Henry Ginsberg, vice-president and general manager of Paramount studio, originated the plan and set it in motion with the aid of leaders in other fields.

•

Producer Joseph Sistrom has assigned George Marshall to direct "Girl's Town," starring Fred MacMurray and Veronica Lake. . . . Jack Melvin of the Melvin-Rackin publicity office, has gone East to handle press arrangements for the Joan Davis-Jack Haley radio program which will move to New York for four weeks of broadcasts.

•

Columbia has assigned William Castle to direct "Soldiers in Slacks." . . . Jack Carson has been assigned the male lead opposite Ann Sheridan in "The Doughgirls," with Jane Wyman, Irene Manning and Eve Arden in other top roles. . . . Warren Wilson has been assigned production of "Song of the Hills" at Universal. . . . Joseph Pasternak is preparing "Dear Barbara" for an April 1 camera date at M-G-M. . . . Leslie Goodwins will direct "Murder in the Blue Room" for associate producer Frank Gross at Universal.

•

Rita Hayworth has returned to Columbia to prepare for her star role in "Tonight and Every Night" (formerly "Heart of the City") which Victor Saville will produce and direct in Technicolor. It is a drama of life in London during the Nazi blitz, sprinkled with musical numbers. . . . Frances Rafferty, Donald Meek and Joe Yule have been added to the cast of "Gold Town," starring Wallace Beery with Binnie Barnes, at M-G-M.

•

Patricia Harper replaces Edward James on the script of "The Singing Sheriff," Universal musical starring Alan Jones. James reports for induction soon. . . . Republic has renewed Dale Evans' contract. She is presently in the Roy Rogers special, "Yellow Rose of Texas." . . . Alexis Smith has the role of Nan in Warners' "The Doughgirls" with Craig Stephens, newly discharged from the Army, playing opposite her. . . . Marta Linden, who has played plenty of attractive screen mothers, plays a scheming siren in "Maisie Goes to Reno" now in work at M-G-M. . . . Jack Cummings will produce "The Girl From Rectors'" at that studio. . . . Warners has changed the title of "Sergt. Schmid, Marine," to "This Love of Ours." . . . M-G-M's "Co-Ed," which started as "Mr. Co-Ed" is now "Bathing Beauty."

Review

"The Falcon Out West"

(RKO)

CONSISTENTLY above average for this series in story substance, character development and general production value, "The Falcon Out West" boosts the series to a new high. The skillful hand of William Clemens has moulded the film into a tingling tale of murder, well acted and packed with suspense. Tom Conway handles the Falcon role with proper nonchalance. Tying him for acting honors is Carole Gallagher as an attractive but unscrupulous murderess.

Lyle Talbot, a rancher visiting New York, is about to marry Miss Gallagher, when he dies of what is apparently a snake bite. The Falcon takes the case and the entire party, including Cliff Clark, police inspector; Ed Gargan, his assistant; Miss Gallagher, Don Douglas, the victim's lawyer, and Joan Barclay, Talbot's first wife, head for the ranch. Several suspects are lined up, each one of them having a good motive, but they are eliminated and suspicion points to Miss Gallagher, who is finally caught as she is trying to kill Conway. The weapon: an ancient Indian ring with simulated fangs, containing deadly venom. Support is adequate. The original by Billy Jones and Morton Grant, based on the Michael Arlen character, follows a logical pattern. Maurice Geraghty produced.

Running time, 64 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

HELEN MCNAMARA

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Joe's $24,000 Is Washington Leader

WASHINGTON, March 7.—"A Guy Named Joe" is doing land-office business in Washington this week to get about $24,000 at Loew's Palace. "In Our Time" at Warner's Earle will do an estimated $23,000, which is not bad considering a gloomy week-end.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 9:

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
LOEW'S CAPITOL—(3,434) (28c-39c-44c-66c) 7 days. On stage: "Little Cafe," Four Franks. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $22,000).

"Standing Room Only" (Para.)
LOEW'S COLUMBIA—(1,234) (30c-50c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,200).

"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNER'S EARLE—(2,210) (30c-40c-50c-75c-90c) 7 days. On stage: Marie Nash, Ben Beri. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $19,700).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
RKO-KEITH'S—(1,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days, 3rd downtown week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $13,600).

"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
WARNER'S METROFOLITAN — (1,600) (30c-44c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $7,200).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S PALACE—(2,242) (28c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $19,000)

Four M-G-M Films Open Out of Town

Openings for four M-G-M films follow: "Rationing" opens tomorrow in Washington, Wilmington, Harrisburg, Reading, Nashville, Syracuse and Kansas City. On March 16 the film starts in Norfolk; the 23rd in Baltimore, and on the 30th in Pittsburgh.

"Broadway Rhythm" will open at Loew houses on March 16 in Richmond, Wilmington, Harrisburg, Reading and Syracuse. The picture will open at the State in Cleveland on the 23rd; Penn, Pittsburgh, on the 24th and on the 30th at the Elm in Worcester, Mass., and Palace in Cincinnati. "A Guy Named Joe" begins a seven-day run at the Valencia in Baltimore tomorrow. "Song of Russia" will make its first appearance in Indianapolis on March 30.

'Bernadette' Takes $8,000 Over Par

BALTIMORE, March 7.—A weekend snowstorm put a dent in box office business at downtown theatres. Then, too, most runs are holdovers, the combined result being below average although "The Song of Bernadette" continues quite well in its third week at the New Theatre with $18,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 9:

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $16,000)

"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(2,406) (30c-35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $13,900)

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (83c-$1.10) 7 days. 3rd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average at regular prices: $10,300)

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
HIPPODROME — (2,205) (28c-30c-45c-55c-66c) 7 days. 2nd week. New stage show: Bob Gentry, Mack & Desmond, Muriel Lane, West & Lexing, Hibbard, Byrd & LaRue. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $17,500)

"Frisco Kid" (WB)
MAYFAIR — (1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,400)

"Banjo On My Knee" (20th-Fox)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,500)

"Three Russian Girls" (UA)
VALENCIA—(1,466) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,600)

Mexican Color Shorts

MEXICO CITY, March 7.—A staff of Hollywood-trained technicians has been engaged to teach Mexicans to work on color cartoon pictures. Caricolor Films, S. A., has been organized here by Santiago Reachi, president of Posa Films, S. A., to produce the shorts. This will be the initial venture of the local industry into this field.

Foster with Cowan

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—Harvey Foster, unit manager and assistant director at Paramount for the past three years, has been engaged by Lester Cowan as production manager for the producer's 1944 program.

'Jingle', Show Bid For Record $41,000

CINCINNATI, March 7.—All roads are leading to the RKO Albee where "Sing a Jingle," plus Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra are zooming to a house record with a terrific $41,000. "Jane Eyre" is winning approximately $16,500 at the RKO Palace.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 8-11:

"Sing a Jingle" (Univ.)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: Tommy Dorsey and orchestra, Betty Brewer, The Sentimentalists, Paul Regan. Gross: $41,000. (Average: $22,000).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $10,000).

"Hara Kiri" (Film Classics)
"I Married a Murderer" (GB)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,400. (Average: $1,400).

"Return of the Rangers" (PRC)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $800. (Average: $800).

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (RKO)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,500).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"The Battle of Tarawa" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover from the RKO Shubert. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000).

"The Frisco Kid" (WB reissue)
"The Battle of Tarawa" (Univ.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,200).

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $15,000).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the RKO Palace. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,000).

'Higher' At $10,300 In Toronto Run

TORONTO, March 7.—"Higher and Higher" promised $13,800 at the Imperial Theatre and "Gung Ho" pointed to $10,300 at the Uptown here for the week. With the holdovers, "Desert Song" appeared to be getting $11,300 for its second week at Shea's.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 9:

"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,000).

"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $13,800).

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,700. (Average: $11,200).

"Desert Song" (WB)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,300. (Average: $12,800).

"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $3,900. (Average: $4,400).

"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $10,300. (Average: $9,800).

More Stars to "Show"

Zorina, Marion Hutton, Jack Pearl, Celeste Holm and Molly Picon are new additions to the list of film, radio and stage personalities who will appear in the "Show of Shows," sponsored by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The benefit will take place Monday night at Madison Square Garden here.


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LEE
BOWMAN
Matchless Music
by
JEROME KERN
RITA HAYWORTH
GENE KELLY
Cover Girl
in TECHNICOLOR
with Lee Bowman • Phil Silvers • Jinx Falkenburg
Screen Play by VIRGINIA VAN UPP • Directed by CHARLES VIDOR • A COLUMBIA PICTURE

Percentages, Studio Space Vex Mexico

MEXICO CITY, March 7.—The film industry here is currently beset by film percentage problems, a shortage of studio space and film transportation difficulties.

Association of Mexican Motion Picture Producers has advised exhibitors of Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, that their film supply will be cut off if they reject its request for a percentage rise. AMMPP has long felt that existing percentages were set too low for distributors. It is understood that such action may be applied to other Mexican exhibitors who refuse to accede to percentage increases.

The industry, through the National Cinematographic Industry Chamber, has asked the government to relieve the transportation bottleneck which is hampering efficient distribution of film. It has asked that new regulations banning transportation by interurban buses and trucks be lifted. Congested railroads and airlines have caused distributors increasing troubles and thus the chamber has appealed for removal of the ban on buses and trucks for film transportation. The government has promised to examine the situation.

Shortage of studio space, extending even to the major companies, Clasa and Azteca, has prompted four producers, Miguel Contrefas Torres Raul de Anda, Gen. Juan F. Azcarate and Ramon Perda to combine to build a studio here.

Army Sets Up Own Carolina Show Unit

RALEIGH, N. C., March 7.—Organization of an independent military entertainment booking unit to function for North Carolina camps housing 250,000 troops, was disclosed here today by Lieut. Col. Philip H. Brewster, CAC, chief of the special service branch of Camp Davis. Formation of the group came out of a meeting attended by special service officers and public relations officers from nine Army and Marine Corps installations in the state.

"Because of the greater emphasis on New York, Chicago and Hollywood areas," Col Brewster said, "camps here have been neglected when tours by top-flight performers have been planned in the past." The new organization, to be known as North Carolina Camps Recreation Association, of which Col. Brewster is chairman, is now negotiating to have units undertake three-week tours of Carolina camps.

Stanley Co. Reports $1,839,870 Net Profit

After provision for taxes and other deductions, net income of $11,018,479 for the year ended Aug. 31, 1943, dwindled to a net profit of $1,839,870, the Stanley Co. of America and subsidiaries has reported. The preceding year's net was $2,953,128. The report showed a total of $2,800,000 for Federal taxes.

Deductions for the year included $3,321,239 for losses on fixed assets and $3,155,447 for amortization depreciation and interest charges. Net income last year, before deductions, amounted to $8,807,035. Assets of the circuit total $70,406,076 and the statement shows an earned surplus of $5,589,010.

Review

"The Monster Maker"

(PRC)

Hollywood, March 7

"THE MONSTER MAKER," directed by Sam Newfield for producer Sigmund Neufeld, offers the usual horror fare associated with the Frankensteins. However, it has a slight variation in the menace produced by a doctor crazed with love for a young girl, who looks like the unfaithful wife he had murdered.

The doctor, J. Carrol Naish, innoculates a famous pianist, Ralph Morgan, with the terrible malady, acromegaly, which destroys his appearance and enlarges his hands so he is unable to play. Realizing what the doctor has done, Morgan confronts him only to be held prisoner while the doctor summons the pianist's daughter, Wanda McKay, to come to her father's aid. Breaking his bonds, Morgan grapples with the doctor, whose gun goes off thus ending the monster-maker's career. The doctor's assistant, Tala Birell, cures the pianist who returns to the concert stage and Wanda to her fiance, Terry Frost, also Morgan's manager. The screenplay is by Pierre Gendron and Martin Mooney from an original by Lawrence Williams. The cast is rounded out with Glenn Strange, Alexander Pollard, and Sam Flint.

Running time, 62 minutes. "G."* Release date April 15.

JACK CARTWRIGHT.

*"G" denotes general classification.

'Casanova' and Carroll Do $15,000

INDIANAPOLIS, March 7.—"Casanova in Burlesque" and Earl Carroll's Vanities on the stage, at advanced prices, will do $15,000 at the Circle this week. In the regular price bracket "Gung Ho" and "Moonlight in Vermont" at the Indiana, are expected to gross $13,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 7-9:

"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (50c-65c) 7 days. Stage show: Earl Carroll Vanities. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,800).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $11,600).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $11,500).
"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
"Battle of Russia" (20th-Fox)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $4,900).

Steinberg, Weintraub Depositions Recorded

Samuel Weintraub of the 20th-Fox home office contract department and Norman B. Steinberg of the legal department yesterday gave depositions in the pre-trial hearing here of the Government's anti-trust case against the Griffith Amusement Co., Texas and Oklahoma circuit operator. The depositions covered principally identification of 20th-Fox contracts with Griffith and independent exhibitors in Griffith territory.

The next witnesses, to be heard possibly later this week, will be from Warners. Paramount testimony has already been taken. Robert L. Wright and Albert Boggess are the special assistants to the Attorney General handling the case here.

Time, Inc., Profit Reaches $3,687,625

Time, Inc., parent of "March of Time" and publisher of *Time, Life, Fortune* and *Architectural Forum,* had a net income of $3,687,625 in 1943 after charges and taxes, compared with $2,998,942 in 1942. The company's balance sheet on December 31 showed current assets of $32,607,976 and current liabilities of $15,674,379.

'Tender Comrade' Near Record $18,500

PROVIDENCE, March 7.—"Tender Comrade" headed for a near house record with a probable $18,500 at the RKO-Albee, after a terrific opening week-end.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 9:

'Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $12,800).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,500).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Jeannie" (English)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $17,700).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Hi, Good Lookin'" (Univ.)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,700. (Average: $12,100).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Majestic. Gross: $3,200. (Average: $4,000).
"Nabonga" (PRC)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: Beatrice Henderson, Howell & Bowser, Linda Moody, Armand Delmar, Joe Costello, Coty & Sue. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,500).
"I Married a Murderer" (York)
METROPOLITAN—(3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Guy Kibbee, The Glenns, The Colstons, Gray Family, Arthur Boran, Norton Sisters. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $2,900).

More Theatremen To Curb Delinquency

LIMA, O., March 7.—Theatre operators in this area have organized to prohibit children under 16 from entering theatres after 9:45 P.M., unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

This action was invoked following an appeal by the juvenile court and the police department, both of which are seeking to counteract the absence of a curfew.

Paramount Handling Air Force 4-Reeler

"Memphis Belle," U. S. Air Force four-reel Technicolor combat report, will be distributed by Paramount, the War Activities Committee announced here yesterday.

This film was produced by the War Department under the supervision of Lt. Colonel William Wyler.

Short Subject Reviews

"Henpecked Rooster"

(Paramount)

An unfortunate "runt" of a rooster is wedded to a hen about four times his size. He is indeed henpecked. An interested mouse arrives on the scene, frightens the hen and shows the rooster how to handle his obstreperous wife. There's a lot of fun in this one. Henpecked husbands might be interested in learning the secret of the rooster's success. Produced in the "Noveltoon" series by Famous Studios. Running time, 8 mins.

"Barber of Seville"

(Universal)

Woody Woodpecker embarks upon a tonsorial career and the result is a hilarious series of haircuts given to the music of Mozart's "Figaro." This is good entertainment for the entire family. The musical score has been handled well and Woody's antics provoke much riotous laughter. Walter Lantz produced it as one of the "Cartune" series. Running time, 7 mins.

"Popular Science"

(Paramount)

No. 3 in the current "Popular Science" series includes a presentation of an all-glass bathroom of tomorrow, a televised day at the beach for the man without gas coupons, and a forceful sequence devoted to the Army on maneuvers experimenting with new and modern equipment. Interesting and educational; the commentary is good. Running time, 10 mins.

"Fellow on a Furlough"

(Universal)

Another in Universal's series of musical shorts, "Fellow on a Furlough" features Bob Chester and his orchestra and Hal Derwin and Rose Ann Stevens, vocalists. It will appeal especially to the Chester fans and swing addicts. Popular numbers featured include the catchy new tune, "Fellow on a Furlough." Running time, 15 mins.

"In Winter Quarters"

(Paramount)

Where circus animals go and what they do at the end of the show season is the subject of the latest Jerry Fairbanks "Speaking of Animals" series. Ken Carpenter "interviews" several of the beasts "at home" and results are highly amusing. The film climaxes with a battle for the ringtail boxing championship. "Speaking of Animals" remains a top-flight shorts series for its all-around appeal. Running time, 9 mins.

"Animal Tricks"

(Universal)

Interesting shots of domesticated animals, trained to perform unusual chores, are shown in "Animal Tricks," one of the series in "Interesting Variety Views." A lion wrestles with his keeper and then caresses him as the keeper holds the beast in his arms; a penguin trots down through the center of a small town and does some shopping; and a black crow performs card tricks, then writes his name on a typewriter. It's an unusual subject, handled to the best advantage. Running time, 9 mins.

Theatre Changes

Comerford Changes

SCRANTON, Pa., March 7.—The Comerford home office here has transferred James Tuffy, formerly of the Danville Capitol to the Pittston American. He replaces Matt O'Keefe. Frank Fitz of the Columbia in Bloomsburg, succeeds Tuffy at the Capitol, and Charles Wiergle, former assistant at the Capitol in Milton, will manager the Columbia.

Warner Changes

PHILADELPHIA, March 7.—Warner circuit changes here include the promotion of Rose Murphy, former cashier at the Cadet, to the managership. Roy Robbins, formerly at the Aldine, is the new manager of the Boyd, succeeding T. Goldsmith, on leave of absence. Lou Columtuono succeeds Robbins at the Aldine.

Stranger Transferred

HARTFORD, March 7.—Michael Stranger, assistant at Loew's Palace here, has been transferred to the Poli in Bridgeport. Mrs. Helen Rossiter, former student assistant at the New Haven Bijou, replaces Stranger at the Palace.

Two Change Hands

BUFFALO, March 7.—The Hornell Theatre, Hornell, has been acquired by the Lela Theatre Corp. from Landsman & Pressler, and the Circle here has been acquired by Matt Konzcakowski from Grummitt Amusement Co.

Klotz to Columbus

COLUMBUS, O., March 7.—Harry Klotz, manager of the Esquire in Toledo, has been moved to the Broad Theatre here. He succeeds William C. Aiken, transferred to the Grand in St. Louis.

Nelson Manages Pearl

PHILADELPHIA, March 7.—Harry Nelson, former manager of the Jay in the Mo Wax circuit, has been transferred to the Pearl, where he succeeds Paul Kleinman, now in the Army.

Kerr Gets Another

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., March 7.—Earl Kerr, owner of theatres here and in Bedford and Vinton, has bought the Caledonia at Caledonia, Minn.

Colonial to Marcus

INDIANAPOLIS, March 7.—M. Marcus Enterprises has acquired the Colonial in Anderson, formerly owned and operated by Harry P. Jones.

Myer Gets Victory

SEATTLE, March 7.—A Myer of Portland, Ore., has bought the Victory Theatre here from J. Knuth.

Whites Buy Almo

SEATTLE, March 7.—T. F. and G. B. White have bought the Almo Theatre in Poulsboro from J. Almos.

Evans Sells Kent

SEATTLE, March 7.—Richard B. Evans has sold his Kent Theatre, in Kent, to Howard Edline.

Frick Sells Hawkeye

GRAETTINGER, Ia., March 7.—George Frick has sold his Hawkeye here to Sam Watson.

Off the Antenna

A SHORT-WAVE broadcasting plant to serve the Pacific area, Far East and Latin America will be constructed in San Francisco at a cost of $1,000,000 by National Broadcasting, for and in collaboration with the Office of War Information and Defense Plant Corp. Construction will begin in a few weeks and the plant, having four powerful stations, is expected to be in operation by Fall. For the duration, it will be operated technically by NBC, San Francisco, for the overseas branch of OWI which will handle program operations. . . .

Last minute agreement betwen the Crosley Corp. and 51 technicians, members of Local 1224, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, prevented a threatened walkout which would have caused stations WLW and WSAI, Cincinnati, to leave the air. The new two-year pact, subject to War Labor Board approval, provides for a weekly scale of $50 to $80, said to be the highest paid by any independent station in the country, although identical with that of CBS and exceeded only by the Blue network. . . .

The National Association of Broadcasters is concerned over the announcement that WMCA, New York, will sell time for discussion of controversial issues, it is disclosed in a letter from Willard D. Egolf, NAB assistant to the president, to Nathan Straus, WMCA president.

• • •

Purely Personal: *Kolin Hager, WGY, Schenectady, N. Y., general manager, has been re-elected director of the second NAB district. . . . William Eickelberg, recently honorably discharged from the Marines, will join the New York office sales division of Mutual as an account executive. . . . George Putnam, NBC newscaster and 20th-Fox Movietone news commentator, will report at Camp Upton for Army service on March 14. . . . Ted MacMurray is the new production manager of the Blue's Hollywood division. . . .*

• • •

Program Notes: Warners' "Shine On Harvest Moon" will be promoted nationally by radio through a tie-up between the company and Benrus Watches with 'plugs' timed in each city to coincide with the local opening of the picture. . . . The drama "Mayor of the Town," starring Lionel Barrymore, will return to CBS on Saturday. . . . Premiere of the new NBC program, "Arthur Hopkins Presents," featuring radio revivals of the producer's plays, is set for April 12. . . . Roy Grumman will be next Sunday's special guest speaker on Eddie Dowling's "Wide Horizons" Mutual program. . . . Station WNEW, New York, is now using the DuMont television facilities to explore and develop new techniques in radio and audio-visual programming. . . . The NBC-Joan Davis program will originate from New York for four weeks beginning March 23. . . . Republic's "In Old Oklahoma," featuring Roy Rogers and Martha Scott, will be presented on the CBS "Lux Radio Theatre" program next Monday.

13 More Trade Shows For 'Cover Girl'

Thirteen additional key city trade-screenings have been scheduled for Columbia's musical, "Cover Girl," starring Rita Hayworth and Gene Kelly.

The picture will be shown to exhibitors today at the Oriental, Portland, Ore.; on March 9 at the Liberty, Seattle; March 13, Dundee Theatre, Omaha; Carolina Theatre, Charlotte; Fisher, Detroit; Regent, Buffalo; Uptown, Oklahoma City; Delaware, Albany; and in Kansas City. March 14 screenings have been arranged for the Esquire, Boston; Circle, Washington; Lyric, Cincinnati and Broadway, Denver.

Grossman Elected by Iowa Independents

DES MOINES, March 7.—At a meeting here yesterday of the board of directors of Allied-Independent Theatre Owners of Iowa, Nebraska, W. P. Grossman, Nevada, Ia., was elected vice-president, replacing W. B. Franke, who has left the State, and Slater O'Hara of Humboldt, Ia., was elected a director.

A discussion of the new Federal tax brought agreement that the tax should be passed on to the public.

Marcus Circuit Meeting

MILWAUKEE, March 7.—A district meeting of theater managers of the Ben Marcus circuit will be held Friday at the Valley Inn in Nina, Wis.

'Harvest Moon' Party For Nora Bayes' Pals

Broadway theatrical folk of the past and present held a reunion party yesterday afternoon at the Murray Hill Hotel here, for the friends of Nora Bayes, whose life story forms the basis of Warners' "Shine On, Harvest Moon," which will have its world premiere Friday at the local Strand Theatre.

Among the show people present, many of whom took part in an impromptu vaudeville program, were: Jesse L. Lasky, Jimmy Durante, Fred Stone, Belle Baker, Marjorie Gateson, Fritzi Scheff, Joe Laurie, Jr., Pat Rooney, Smith and Dale, the Duncan Sisters, "Senator" Ford, George Shelton, Lulu McConnell, Irving Caesar, Yvette Rugel, Dan Healy and Teddy Hart.

Astor Acquires Six Edward Small Films

Astor Pictures has acquired United States and Canadian reissue rights to six features produced by Edward Small under the Reliance banner, which were originally released through United Artists. The films are: "The Melody Lingers On," "Red Salute," "Joe Palooka," "Trans-Atlantic Merry-Go-Round," "Let Him Have It" and "I Cover the Waterfront."

Astor has also purchased, for world reissue, three two-reelers starring Danny Kaye from Mohawk Films. The shorts will be reissued as a six reel feature, titled "The Danny Kaye Comedy Cavalcade."

OPA Sets A New Ceiling on 16mm

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Specific ceiling prices for used and 16 mm motion picture cameras and projectors and exposure meters for still cameras were set yesterday by the Office of Price Administration, effective April 6. The OPA explained that the regulation is aimed at effective control over a commodity that is becoming increasingly important because of the growing scarcity of new photographic equipment.

In general, the new prices reflect the national levels in effect during March, 1942, and place the ceilings at 75 per cent of the March, 1942, ceiling price of new articles for reconditioned equipment in first-class operating condition, and 33⅓ per cent for equipment in an "as is" condition.

Two Changes in Memphis Censors

MEMPHIS, March 7.—H. H. Donnell, attorney, and Mrs. Sidney Law, housewife, have been appointed to replace Mrs. W. H. Fisher and Mrs. H. V. Smith on the board of censors here. Lloyd Binford, board chairman, was reappointed.

Outstanding action of the local board during the past year was the barring of 20th-Fox's "Stormy Weather" and deletions in M-G-M's "Cabin in the Sky," both with Negro casts.

Hanson in Postwar Theatre Expansion

TORONTO, March 7.—Oscar Hanson, president of Monogram Pictures of Canada Ltd., has a theatre-expansion program planned for Canada which is expected to be in full swing in the postwar. For some years Hanson was president of Hanson Theatres Corp., operating more than 30 theatres in Ontario.

Hanson was also formerly general manager of Allied Exhibitors of Ontario and Associated Theatres, Ltd. He was also president of Empire Films Ltd.

Monogram to Make 3 Films in Canada

TORONTO, March 7.—Monogram's Hollywood production plans now call for filming of part of the feature program in Canada, it has been learned here.

Definitely planned for Canada filming are at least three pictures: "Land of the Sky Blue Waters," "Wonderland" and "Trail of the Yukon."

Carol Weld Joins RKO

ATLANTA, March 7.—Carol Weld, former New York reporter and foreign correspondent for United Press and North American Newspaper Alliance, has become RKO press representative here, succeeding Ted Wynn, who was transferred to the Midwest.

Gomperts to New York

PHILADELPHIA, March 7.—George Gomperts, exploiteer for 20th-Fox in this area, has succeeded Christie Wilbert, now in the Navy, as press book editor at the home office in New York.

This is the book they're talking about...



WALTER WINCHELL: "Read it for your child's sake. It can help prevent another war."

Read it and prepare for the most dangerous moment in all history...when Germany, losing this war, lets loose the campaign for winning the next

GABRIEL HEATTER: "In this book I found the answer to the question millions of us have asked – What to Do With Germany. Read it and you will see what has to be done to save your child another war. This book will take hold with the fury of a prairie fire."

PHILADELPHIA RECORD: "Probing, compact, educative, sane and magnificently constructive, 'What to Do With Germany' strikes us as essential reading . . . It is no over-statement but rather an exact definition of its importance to say it deserves to circulate in the millions."

CLEVELAND PRESS: "His 200-page book is the most provocative study we have seen on the question of what should be done to Germany."

CAPTAIN EDDIE RICKENBACKER: "The most comprehensive, all-impressive human document put forth to date. Every statesman and politician should be forced to read and digest it."

CECIL ROBERTS: "It is the most searching and balanced analysis to which Germany has ever been submitted."

VICE-PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE: "A timely book for those who are doing serious thinking about the post-war period."

CLIFTON FADIMAN: "A calm, cool, completely documented, bullet-proof demonstration of the fact that unless the German nation (not merely the official Nazi gang) surrenders unconditionally, we are inviting another war with the Germans twenty years hence."

PRICE, $2.50 ZIFF-DAVIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

Global Plan Weighed for Film Industry

(Continued from page 1)

the MPPDA, as well as the industry, would enjoy the benefits of a world-wide organization.

The plan, it is stated, is not designed to supplant international representation for the industry which may be provided in the postwar period by the State Department under its new policy of improved cooperation in world markets, but, rather, would supplement that policy. It would add on-the-spot commercial representation to the State Department's diplomatic efforts on behalf of the industry and also would provide a reliable advisory agent on industry affairs for the Department's representatives whenever film problems arise in the key world capitals.

Moscow Representative

Most of the appointments probably will await the postwar period, or at least will trail the reopening of strategic capitals by several months. A more immediate possibility, however, which is a part of current discussions, is the appointment of an industry representative at Moscow immediately. It also is being urged that Allport return to his London post as soon as his health permits.

It is pointed out that while the British Ministry of Information and the U. S. Office of War Information are both established in Moscow, only the BMI is empowered to speak and act for the British film industry. Thus, that industry has representation in Moscow but the American industry has not.

40 Features Sent

The American industry has sent approximately 40 features to Moscow in recent months and indications are that about 15 will be purchased by the Soviet this year, despite the lack of an industry representative at Moscow.

Reports reaching home office foreign departments indicate that the Soviet, despite a current raw stock shortage, already is preparing the groundwork for later cultivation of the film markets in China and India, where American pictures for long have been outstanding favorites.

Petition Standard Time

TORONTO, March 7.—Holding daylight saving time to be inconvenient and no longer essential to the war effort, the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities, in annual convention here, adopted a resolution seeking the return to standard time next Fall. Previously the executive committee of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities adopted a similar motion.

Czech Army Film Here

First newsreels of the Czechoslovakian Army which has been helping recapture former Russian territory from the Nazis will be shown with Artkino's "Heroes Are Made," at the Stanley Theatre here starting Friday. The film features Col. Ludwig Svoboda, commander of the Czech legion.

Industry Sets Red Cross Drive Pace, Says Kalmine

(Continued from page 1)

miracle of initiative and patriotic duty unsurpassed in the story of the war effort. Not only have theatres learned to act together with spontaneous patriotism in these emergencies, but the efficiency of individual theatres in handling collections has improved so much that it is generally believed we will be able to turn over to the American Red Cross a sum far exceeding anything collected in the past."

All-Time Record

That the industry would establish a new all-time record in the Red Cross was predicted by Martin Smith, national Allied president, at the Cleveland session. Bob Mochrie pledged distributor representatives to mobilize all remaining unpledged theatres for early delivery of the Red Cross trailer and other material. Additional speakers were George Erdman, secretary of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association; Judge Stanley Orr, chairman of the Cleveland American Red Cross; Maury Orr, local distributor WAC chairman, and Captain Frank Goldenberg, hero of the Pacific war zone, who is convalescing in a local hospital. Nat Wolff, local exhibitor chairman, presided.

At the Omaha meeting, in the Fontenelle Hotel, speakers were E. L. Alperson, Ben Kalmenson and Ben Shlyen of the national group; H. B. Johnson, local distributor chairman, and William Miskell, exhibitor chairman.

Martin Starr on Loan To WAC for Red Cross

Martin Starr, in charge of United Artists radio publicity is on loan to the WAC to aid the industry's Red Cross drive. Starr will help write and produce several special events programs to be broadcast the week of March 23-29. The programs will be identified as "The motion picture industry's contribution to the Red Cross war effort."

Starr will leave for Philadelphia to set a radio pick-up of the meeting-luncheon there on March 13 which will conclude the cross-country tour of industry officials who have been preparing operation of Red Cross collection week in theatres.

Coast Labor Group To Report Monday

Frank Carothers, Coast Red Cross chairman, has called an industry-wide survey of the labor group's standings in the drive at Brittingham's Cafe, Los Angeles, Monday, preparatory to reports of the labor group's campaign. The majors will report tomorrow at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, during a general session of the campaign committee, when the studio "Colonels" will also report.

47 Communities Need War Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

including persons who would be interested in operating theatres built by the Government in communities where the population increase is only temporary and do not offer an attractive permanent investment, as well as others who would build if they could get projection equipment and seats. An OCR effort now is under way in the WPB to secure permits for the production of projectors and seats on a limited scale, because of indications that there is not enough such equipment to provide for all the "war houses" which may be necessary.

R. W. Longstreth, OCR representative in the San Francisco office of the War Production Board, said there is need for new exhibition facilities in the shape of a 2,000-seat theatre in Albany, Cal., renovation and reopening of a Berkeley theatre not now operating; a 500-seat house in Livermore, a house in Alameda, a new large theatre in Vallejo, a 1,500-seat theatre in Oakland, a 500-seat house in Pleasanton, four theatres in Richmond and two in Napa, a 500-700 seat house in San Bruno, and renovation and reopening of the Majestic Theatre in Benicia.

Altec Signs Williams

Altec Service has signed with the K. Lee Williams Theatres, Hot Springs, Ark., for the furnishing of service and booth and sound repair-replacement parts to the Williams circuit in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

$127,500,000 for New U.S. Projects

(Continued from page 1)

tional facilities such as film theatres, bowling alleys, markets and stores. (The U. S. has received reports on the need for new theatre facilities in 47 war-plant areas—see story in adjoining column).

Of the $58,000,000 in the FWA's program, some $40,000,000 is expected to be advanced by private enterprise, rendering it necessary to spend only $18,000,000 of Government money, the appropriation sub-committee in charge of the bill was told by Sullivan W. Jones of the war production board.

These facilities are needed to stabilize employment, officials told the sub-committee during its hearings, pointing out that poor housing and poor educational and recreational facilities, including those for films, were important factors in the labor turnover at war plants.

Wherever possible, private capital is encouraged to establish the facilities needed, other than those which are Governmental responsibilities, such as schools, etc., and where the FWA builds only in communities whose future is so uncertain that the risk may seem too great for private capital to assume, it was explained.

Bookers Theatre Party

The Motion Picture Bookers Club of New York will see "Jacobowsky and the Colonel" at the Martin Beck at its theatre party on May 2. Proceeds will go to a soldiers allotment fund.

2,000 in RKO Are Pension Eligibles; New Officers' Pacts

(Continued from page 1)

with N. Peter Rathvon, president; Ned E. Depinet, vice-president, and Charles W. Koerner, executive vice-president of RKO Radio Pictures. Under the new pacts, salaries of Rathvon and Depinet were increased from $78,000 annually to $104,000, and that of Koerner from $97,500 to $104,000.

Trustees of the pension plan, empowered to invest contributions to it, all of which are made by the company, are: Floyd B. Odlum, RKO board chairman; L. Boyd Hatch, a director, and Rathvon. Initial members of the pension committee, which will have general administration of the plan, are: L. Lawrence Green, Frederick L. Ehrman and George H. Shaw, directors of RKO, and Garrett Van Wagner, RKO comptroller, and L. E. Thompson, supervisor of RKO labor relations. Both the committee and the trustees will serve without compensation.

$90,000 Group Insurance

In addition to the pension costs of $450,000 annually, the company will pay a gross premium of $90,000 annually for group insurance which is a part of the plan. Further details were reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 4.

The special stockholders' meeting next Tuesday also will act on stock purchase options under which Rathvon, Depinet and Koerner are authorized to purchase 50,000 shares of RKO common during a seven-year period at $8 per share, as reported exclusively in the DAILY yesterday.

Hoffman, Pioneer Producer, Passes

(Continued from page 1)

as an operator of New England theatres. He next became general manager of Universal and held the post until 1917, when he founded Tiffany and functioned as vice-president and general manager of that company until it was sold to L. A. Young in 1929.

Liberty Productions was organized in 1930 by Hoffman, who expanded his activities the next year by organizing Allied Pictures, of which he was president, with M. H. Hoffman, Jr., as vice-president. Father and son organized Liberty Pictures Corp. in 1933, and the change to Liberty National Pictures was made in 1941.

540 Overseas Shows

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—The Hollywood Victory Committee reports that 29 film stars and players entertained American and Allied troops overseas during February, with 18 stars still at war fronts, in a record total of 540 performances. Government figures disclose that 355 players have made 1,332 appearances in 189 events thus far in the War.

Keller to Chicago

CHICAGO, March 7.—Harry Keller, formerly with Maurice Bergman's staff at the Universal home office in New York, has succeeded Ben Katz as Chicago publicist for that company.

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Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 48 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1944 TEN CENTS

From Nothing To Millions For Air Shows

Millions Budgeted for Film Promotions

The major film companies will spend millions of dollars to advertise pictures on the air this year. Only a negligible portion of annual promotion budgets was spent on radio in previous years.

Although most company advertising heads are reluctant to admit it, the curtailment of newspaper space available for film advertising is the chief factor leading to increased budgets for radio.

M-G-M and RKO appear to be the leaders in actual dollar expenditures. Both now have network programs and are expected to spend in excess of $1,000,000 each on radio advertising this year. Warner Bros. is also considering a network program. Although

(*Continued on page 8*)

Griffith Answers Anti-Trust Charge

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 8.—Denial of allegations of a group of Oklahoma theatre owners in a Federal District Court suit charging violations of the Sherman anti-trust law was made by the Griffith theatre organizations in an answer filed here this week.

The independents, Oklahoma Theatres, Inc. (A. B. Momand), Shawnee, Okla.; State Theatre (M. L. Riggs), Vinita, Okla., and Mystic Theatre, Inc., Picher, Okla., are seeking to restrain 13 distributors and the Griffith interests from entering into contracts they allege to be in violation of the Sherman Act.

Griffith's answer states the acts cited by the plaintiffs in demanding damages totaling $606,000 are barred from

(*Continued on page 8*)

Kirsch Reelection Is Expected Today

CHICAGO, March 8.—Reelection of Jack Kirsch as Allied of Illinois president for the fifth consecutive term is expected today at the organization's 14th annual meeting at the Blackstone Hotel here.

All other officers are also expected to be reelected, headed by Van A. Nomikos as vice-president.

Eastman '43 Profit $22,270,403; Jump Of Million in Year

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 8.—Eastman Kodak and subsidiaries had a net profit of $22,270,403 in 1943, compared to $21,183,515 in 1942, according to the annual statement released here today by President T. J. Hargrave and board chairman F. W. Lovejoy.

Added projects assigned by the armed services increased sales from $219,759,664 in 1942 to $269,044,394 in 1943. After deducting expenses and cost of sales, Eastman had $67,751,959 income from operations, which was increased by interest and dividends to $70,247,846, compared with $63,814,253 in 1942.

Provision for United States and foreign incomes taxes was $11,477,443, while the excess-profit tax, less post-war credit, amounted to $32,500,000,

(*Continued on page 8*)

U. A. Will Establish Near East Offices

United Artists is planning the immediate opening of offices in the Near East, in line with that company's intentions of expanding abroad as rapidly as war conditions permit, it was disclosed here yesterday by Walter Gould, U. A. foreign manager.

Al Lowe, general manager in South Africa, has been dispatched to Egypt to discuss with Joe Coen, Cairo manager, a new local distribution set-up, and to arrange for the early establishment of branch offices in Tel-Aviv, Palestine and possibly Beyrouth.

59 Millions of E. K. Funds in U. S. Notes

Rochester, N. Y., March 8.—Securities owned by Eastman Kodak, totaling $65,087,542, consist entirely of United States and Canadian government obligations, according to the company's annual financial statement.

The investment is broken down as follows: U. S. tax-anticipation notes, $14,070,000; U. S. unrestricted securities, $45,674,335; deposited workman's compensation commissions, $496,475; U. S. securities subject to Canadian control regulations, $702,841; unrestricted Canadian obligations, $34,661, and Dominion obligations subject to exchange-control regulations, $4,109,230.

Buffalo and K.C. Rally for Red Cross

More theatres in the Buffalo exchange area already are pledged to participate in the 1944 Red Cross War Fund drive than ever before took part in a single industry campaign, Max M. Yellen, local exhibitor chairman, told 250 theatre men at a luncheon meeting yesterday in the Hotel Statler, Buffalo, according to the War Activities Committee here. A similar rally was held at the same time in Kansas City.

Henderson M. Richey of M-G-M asserted that "the Red Cross drive is the biggest job of all, and everyone in

(*Continued on page 3*)

Three Named As Judges To Select 'Honored 100'

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—Charles P. Skouras, national chairman of the industry's Fourth War Loan drive, announced here yesterday that national judges in the "Honored 100" theatre bond sales competition will be Walter D. Fuller of Philadelphia, publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Saturday Evening Post;* Palmer Hoyt of Portland, Ore., publisher of the *Oregonian,* and Dr. P. H. Odegard, professor of political science and government at Amherst College. The three were named by a joint industry-Treasury Department committee.

The three, Skouras announced, will serve as a final selection board in

(*Continued on page 8*)

Producers and IATSE Argue on Proposals

Negotiations between producer and the IATSE studio craft union representatives reached the argument stage on the IATSE's proposals for a new contract, at the second meeting held here yesterday in the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact. The IATSE proposals made at Monday's meeting between the two groups were reviewed but no new proposals were discussed yesterday as originally planned. Only half of the IATSE proposals have been heard to date.

The producers are scheduled to meet

(*Continued on page 8*)

40-Hr. Rulings Preclude 30% Pay Increase

Exclude Exchanges from 48 Hours in 14 Spots

Regional War Manpower Commission's exclusion of film exchange workers in 14 cities designated as 48-hour-work-week areas precludes a 30 per cent annual exchange payroll increase by distributors, based on time-and-one-half for an extra eight hours over the existing 40-hour week. Increase would have affected 3,000 workers.

Petitions were filed by the distributors, and granted, for the exclusion of exchange workers from a 48-hour-week in 14 areas. Rulings on appeals are awaited in Milwaukee and Seattle, with a 40-hour-week continuing in both places.

Petitions for exemption from the

(*Continued on page 8*)

Sidney Clift Elected President of CEA

LONDON, March 8.—Capt. Sidney Clift, vice-president, was elected president, replacing Henry Simpson; and George Harry Scarborough of Leicester was elected vice-president, at today's annual meeting here of the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association.

The Duke of Gloucester, in the presence of J. Arthur Rank, British film leader, and Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, at a reception later, presented a scroll to Simpson commemorating his year's in office and also the collection by theatres of $1,200,000 for the Duke's "War Prisoners' Fund."

Korda Talks Sale Of His U. A. Stock

Discussions are currently under way between Sir Alexander Korda and Edward Raftery and Gradwell Sears, president and vice-president in charge of distribution for United Artists, respectively, for the sale to the company of Korda's 25 per cent stock interest in United Artists, it was learned yesterday.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 8

MARK SANDRICH has signed with Paramount a five-year producer-director contract calling for one picture annually and permitting three outside films during the life of the agreement, which takes effect following "Here Come the Waves," now in preparation.

•

Republic executives James R. Grainger and Francis A. Bateman are attending the National Theatres' conference, which opened at Palm Springs today.

•

Producers Corp. of America has purchased "The Life of Remington," Ramon Romero original. Harry Joe Brown will produce the film in Technicolor.

•

RKO has renewed John Auer's producer-director contract and assigned to him an untitled musical starring Anne Shirley and featuring Dennis Day and Leon Errol.

•

William Girard's production schedule at 20th-Fox has been augmented by "Double or Nothing" and "Hotel Doctor."

•

"Enchanted Cottage" has been returned by RKO to the producing schedule of Harriet Parsons. Jack Gross will supervise.

•

Mickey Rooney has been reclassified 1A by his draft board. He was previously rejected by the Army because of a "heart flutter."

•

Herbert J. Yates, Sr., president of Consolidated Film Industries, Inc., left today for New York.

•

Universal has added "Night Life," a musical mystery, to the schedule of associate producer Frank Gross.

Walter Mayo Signed By Producers Corp.

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—Producers Corp. of America yesterday announced the signing of Walter Mayo as general production manager for its entire United Artists releasing program.

Mayo, a veteran of 29 years in the industry, was formerly with Samuel Goldwyn and Alexander Korda. His first PCA assignments will be "Navy" and "The Greeks Had a Word for It."

Seymour Levine Killed

Seymour Levine, brother of William Levine of Loew's home office contract department, was killed in action in the Marshalls' invasion, according to a telegram received by the family from the War Department.

Another M-G-M employe, who took part in the invasion of Kwajalein was Harold Weinberger, formerly Los Angeles office manager, now a sergeant in the U. S. Marines. He was not injured.

Personal Mention

LOUIS B. MAYER, and JACK POTTER, the latter of the M-G-M studio publicity department, will leave for Hollywood March 17.

•

JACK FORTUNATO was captain of Roxy Theatre ushers until he joined the Marines; now he is a Marine captain. Former Roxyites SIDNEY DAVIS, JOHN MCHUGH, ARTHUR RONEY, JOHN RAUCHENSTEIN, CHARLES HARAN and F. C. SCHREIBER have been promoted to lieutenancies in the armed forces.

•

GEORGE SCHWARTZ, Universal Philadelphia branch manager, STEVE BARUTIO, Warner circuit Philadelphia district manager, and JOSEPH SCHAFFER, Columbia salesman in that city, have left for Florida vacations.

•

ROBERT LYNCH, M-G-M Philadelphia branch manager, and JAY EMANUEL, independent theatre operator in that city, have returned from Florida vacations.

•

ALBERT J. RICHARD, editor of *Paramount News*, was given a surprise birthday party by his associates at the Hotel Astor last night.

•

WILLIAM KEEGAN, William C. Hunt Theatres, Trenton, N. J., general manager, is recovering from a serious illness.

•

ALBERT J. COHEN, Republic producer, who has been visiting his parents in Philadelphia, has returned to Hollywood.

•

H. M. BESSEY, Altec Service vice-president, has returned from a trip to the Coast.

•

STANLEY HAND, Altec Service staff representative, has returned from the South.

•

WALTER BLAKE of the Blaine-Thompson Agency will leave today for California.

•

GEORGE RUBENS, Philadelphia Wax Theatre circuit booker, has left on a Western trip.

•

GERALD WEISLER, manager of Warners' Columbia Theatre, Philadelphia, will leave for the Navy Saturday.

ROBERT MOCHRIE, RKO general sales manager, returned yesterday from a Red Cross speaking tour of New Haven, Cleveland and Cincinnati.

•

SAMUEL GROSS, 20th-Fox Philadelphia branch manager, and HARRY E. WEINER, Columbia branch manager there, are serving as co-chairmen for the fourth annual welfare fund drive of the Motion Picture Associates.

•

VINCENT O'DONNELL, RKO Philadelphia office manager, has become city salesman for the company, with ADDE GAUTCHALK taking over his former post.

•

BEN MELNIKER, M-G-M attorney, now in New Haven on company business, will leave that city tomorrow for Chicago, to attend the M-G-M sales-war conference.

•

LT. JAMES TRINZ, former manager of Lubliner and Trinz Theatres, Chicago, is ill in the Thayer General Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.

•

TONY SUDEKUM, head of Crescent Amusement Co., Nashville, Tenn., has become a member of the advisory board of the Salvation Army.

•

HOWARD STRICKLING, M-G-M studio publicity director, will leave for the Coast March 15 with a two-day stopover in Detroit.

•

J. S. MCLEOD, M-G-M exchange operations head, left yesterday for Chicago to attend the M-G-M sales-war conference.

•

DAN LUBLINER has returned to manage the Chicago Monroe theatre after an operation at the Hines Hospital.

•

GEORGE LANDERS, E. M. Loew's Hartford supervisor, was in Boston on company business recently.

•

BERNARD LEVY, manager of Proven Pictures, Hartford, was in Boston on Lieberman circuit business.

•

VOLDEMAR VETLUGUIN, special assistant to LOUIS B. MAYER, will leave tomorrow for the Coast.

•

NORMAN ELSON, Trans-Lux vice-president, left yesterday for Boston.

Jackson Park Trust Suit to Jury Today

CHICAGO, March 8.—The Jackson Park Theatre's anti-trust suit against Balaban and Katz and major distributors was concluded here today with the jury expected to get the case tomorrow.

In closing defense arguments this afternoon, Miles G. Seeley stressed that no evidence of conspiracy or violation of the Sherman act had been uncovered. Vincent O'Brien declared that reduced revenue of the plaintiff's house was due to the virtual lack of competition when it was built in 1916. Now there are seven modern opposition houses, he said.

Services Tomorrow For M. H. Hoffman

HOLLYWOOD, March 8. — Funeral services for Michael H. Hoffman, 63, formerly president of Liberty National Pictures and a pioneer in the industry, will be held Thursday at Forest Lawn Cemetery here. Hoffman, who died yesterday, had been an independent producer since Liberty merged with two other companies to form Republic Pictures in 1937.

Surviving are his widow, Mary; two sons, Michael, Jr., and George, in the Navy; and a daughter, Mrs. Hermine Rutkin.

AFL Denies 'Raid' on CIO Film Workers

Russell M. Moss, vice-president of the Motion Picture Office Employes Union, Local 23169, AFL, yesterday denied that his union's attempt to organize home office workers of major film companies is a "raid," *per se.* MPOE has embarked upon a campaign to organize some 800 "white collarites" employed in the home offices of Paramount, Columbia and United Artists.

The Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO, has contracts covering these workers and Sidney Young, SOPEG president, on Monday, characterized MPOE's projected attempt to "raid" his union's jurisdiction as "unprincipled."

"There is no home office under CIO contract where more than 25 percent of the employes are members of that union in good standing, and that is not representative representation," Moss said.

MPOE claims to represent over 600 "white collarites" in Warner Bros. home office and its New York subsidiaries. It will absorb some 150 Universal home office workers on April 1.

Korda May Lower British Film Goal

Production of 12 to 14 pictures per year in London at an estimated cost of $1,000,000 each, which was announced in England by Sir Alexander Korda, production head for M-G-M in England, will be deferred until after the war, it was learned. This program, when it becomes effective, will supplement M-G-M's studio production program in Hollywood, it is reported.

The present production program may be limited to two or three pictures a year, because of the limited studio facilities in London. Korda's first film, now in production, is "Perfect Strangers," starring Robert Donat and Deborah Kerr, with Wesley Ruggles directing at the Denham Studios. His second and third pictures are expected to be determined here during conferences with Louis B. Mayer.

Universal Directors Are All Reelected

WILMINGTON, Del., March 8.—Universal Pictures Co., Inc., held its annual stockholders meeting here today, with vice-president Charles D. Prutzman presiding. Reelected were all 14 incumbent members of the board of directors: N. J. Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, D. C. Collins, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, William German, John J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Sheaffer, W. H. Taylor, Jr., Clifford Work and Prutzman. MOTION PICTURE DAILY today reported that the directors would be reelected.

The first meeting of the new board will be held April 6 to elect officers.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Red Cross Message to 10,000 Houses

Distribution Of Trailers Starts Today

Distribution of a special Red Cross trailer, "Report from the Front," with Humphrey Bogart, to all theatres that have signed pledges of participation in the WAC-motion picture theatres' 1944 Red Cross drive, March 23-29, will start today through National Screen exchanges in 31 cities.

Local Red Cross chairmen for the industry's drive will furnish the NSS branches with daily lists of all theaters signing pledges entitling them to the trailer. Exchanges have been instructed to mail the trailers on the day they are notified that pledges are in.

Plans call for having trailers in the hands of all exhibitors in ample time for showing two or three days in advance of March 23 when collections begin. The trailer runs three-and-a-half minutes. It opens with Bogart alighting from a plane with Mayo Methot (Mrs. Bogart) and being met by several officials, with whom he begins talking about the work of the Red Cross. As Bogart talks there are flashbacks showing various Red Cross activities. First is the "Clubmobile," in which Red Cross workers go directly to the front, meet planes and crews as they arrive at their home field. The crews receive hot coffee and doughnuts and any assistance they may require.

Work of the Red Cross in hospitals, collection of blood plasma, recreation programs for the sick, and a scene of the RC serving 3,000 meals to our boys in Australia are shown. All activities and services are described by Bogart, who winds up by addressing an appeal to the audience, emphasizing the fact that 1944 is "invasion year" and, therefore, the RC's needs are the greatest ever.

Special Appeal to Children in Drive

Philadelphia, March 8.—Several neighborhood theatres here have conceived the idea of contacting schools and having pupils contribute to the Red Cross at a designated performance during the WAC-motion picture theatres 1944 Red Cross drive, week of March 23-29, it is revealed by Ted Schlanger, Warner Circuit zone manager for this territory.

Actual collection of the money will be made in advance at the schools, and at the special performance. Either the theatre manager or a war veteran will make a direct appeal to the children, naming their school and the amount contributed.

National Drive Leaders Meet Pitkin



(Left to Right) Barney Pitkin, New Haven, branch manager for RKO, meets Bob Mochrie, RKO sales manager; Francis Harmon, War Activities Committee, and Harry Kalmine, Warner Theatres, all WAC Red Cross drive national traveling representatives, during Connecticut's recent rally for the campaign.

Ad Series Depicts Many Services of Red Cross

A series of at least 12 advertisements, each depicting a different phase of Red Cross activity, has been mapped out by film companies for publication in advance of the motion picture theatres' Red Cross Week, March 23-29, with Joseph Bernhard as national industry chairman.

Chief purpose of the ads, the first of which appears in today's MOTION PICTURE DAILY, is to impress on all exhibitors and others in the industry whose cooperation is needed to make the drive a success, the greatly expanded scope of the Red Cross organization's work under wartime conditions, stressing the much greater demands for relief, welfare, morale and other services, and consequently the urgent necessity of going over the top in the $10,000,000 goal.

Subjects Treated

Subjects being treated in the ad series, and the respective companies to which they were assigned through the drawing of lots, include: Blood Plasma (20th Century-Fox), Prisoners of War (Warner Bros.), Canteen Service (Universal), Home Service (RKO Radio Pictures), Hospital Service (Columbia), Clubmobiles (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), Ambulance (Paramount), Motion Pictures for Soldiers (United Artists), Bundles (Monogram), Nurses (Republic), Mail (National Screen Service). One or two additional subjects will probably be added to the list.

Production work on the ads was accomplished in record time by the advertising departments of the various companies following a conference several days ago at which advertising directors of the companies discussed plans with Harry Goldberg, campaign manager, and Charles A. Smakwitz, publicity director for the Red Cross drive.

Buffalo and K.C. Rally for Red Cross

(*Continued from page 1*)

the industry must get behind it and put it over the top. Every dollar, every cent, collected may save a life."

Harry Kalmine, Warners, pointed out that, although the quota is two-and-a-half times that of previous goals, the industry is sure to exceed it. He also emphasized the many accessories which are available to exhibitors for the drive and urged all showmen to take advantage of them.

Other Speakers

Others who addressed the meeting included Lewis G. Harriman, president of the Buffalo American Red Cross chapter; John M. Garver, local ARC War Fund drive chairman; E. Ray Hodge, secretary of the Buffalo Red Cross chapter; Lt. Robert Herschberger, war hero, who commanded a P-Y boat in the South Pacific, and Harold Zeltner, veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign, who has been honorably discharged from the service and is now an M-G-M salesman in Buffalo.

At the Kansas City meeting, in the Muehlbach Hotel, speakers included E. L. Alperson, Ben Kalmenson, Ben Shlyen; Jack Langan, local distributor chairman, and Elmer Rhoden, exhibitor chairman.

Chicago Quota $190,000

CHICAGO, March 8.—A quota of $190,000 has been set for contributions to the Red Cross from employees and corporations in the motion picture and amusement industries in Chicago, it was announced here by John Balaban, exhibitor chairman. Members of his committee are James Costen, Ed Silverman and Hal Halperin.

Film Salesmen Will Contact Outlying Runs

In 23 key-city meetings held to date as advance rallies for the WAC-motion picture theatres' 1944 Red Cross drive, exhibitors representing more than 8,100 theatres have been addressed by the 15 industry executives who volunteered to tour the country on their own time and expense to aid in getting the campaign under way.

Three meetings remain to be held: one today in St. Louis, another next Monday in Philadelphia and the third on March 15 in Albany, N. Y.

In the 26 rallies, exhibitors representing more than 10,000 theatres will have been reached by the speakers, who include: Joseph Bernhard, Warner Theatres, national chairman of the industry's 1944 Red Cross campaign; Ben Kalmenson, Warner Bros.; Si Fabian, Fabian Theatres; Francis S. Harmon, War Activities Committee; Ned E. Depinet, RKO-Radio; Ben Shlyen, Boxoffice; Harry Brandt, Brandt Theatres; Martin G. Smith, president of both national and Ohio Allied exhibitor organizations; Harry Kalmine, Warner Theatres; E. L. Alperson, RKO Theatres; Robert Mochrie, RKO-Radio; Abe Montague, Columbia; Sam Dembow, Paramount Theatres; Andy Smith, Jr., 20th Century-Fox, and Henderson M. Richey, M-G-M.

"The eagerness of these men to make these trips and do their part in securing 100 per cent theatre participation is in keeping with the spirit of the entire industry in all its contributions to the war effort," Bernhard

(*Continued on page 8*)

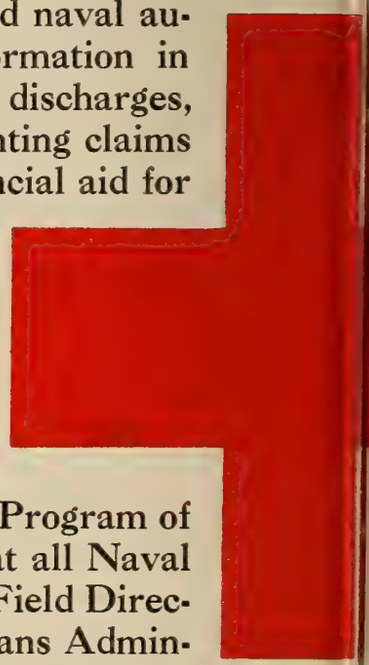
Elect Greenblatt



Herb Greenblatt of RKO (left) is congratulated by Joseph Bernhard, national WAC Red Cross drive chairman, on his designation as WAC distributor chairman for Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, during a Red Cross drive rally in Pittsburgh.

There's nothing more impo
to a fighting man than H

Here are just a *few* highlights of the many Home Services: Assistance with communications between service men and their families . . . Cooperation with military and naval authorities in obtaining home information in deciding questions of furloughs, discharges, clemency . . . Assistance in presenting claims for government benefits . . . Financial aid for special needs not provided for from public funds, and help in contacting proper sources . . . Camp Service: Field Directors at each Army, Navy and Marine station and camp in the United States, insular territories, and offshore bases . . . Hospital Service: Program of social service and welfare work at all Naval and Army General Hospitals . . . Field Directors assigned for service in Veterans Administration Offices, etc., etc., etc.



MOTION PIC
RED CROSS WE
(Collect at Every P

RED CROSS H

This advertisement contributed by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.

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OME..... and here, too, the Red Cross is the friend in need



"Confidence, courage, energy to be a good soldier, sailor, marine, or coast guardsman—these are possible only if the man in uniform can be relieved of anxiety for the welfare of his family. Because problems on the home front so vitally affect the progress of the war effort, Home Service is organized in every Red Cross Chapter to assist families of service men in meeting the social and economic problems which arise while the men are serving in the armed forces . . . In carrying out the responsibilities imposed by its Charter, every Chapter shares in the American Red Cross program of Services to the Armed Forces by providing Home Service for men in the military and naval forces and their families and for discharged men and their dependents."—American Red Cross



AFRICA — Red Cross Field Director types out home service message for anxious G. I.

INDUSTRY
MARCH 23-29
ce)

OME SERVICE

'Joe's $11,800 Over Par in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, March 8.—In spite of heavy weekend snows, business continues at high levels. Leading is the Stanley where "A Guy Named Joe" is good for a starting $31,800, plus $4,500 grossed for the dual showing at the Earle on Sunday.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 8-10:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
ALDINE—(900) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $14,600).
"Riding High" (Para.)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run, 2nd week. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $4,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,400. (Average: $18,000).
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO) (6 days)
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville including Charlie Spivak's orchestra, Jimmy Saunders, Irene Daye, Dick Buckley and Winik and Mae. Gross: $28,500. (Average: $27,800).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,600).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,800).
"In Our Time" (WB)
MASTBAUM—(4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $22,500).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
STANLEY — (3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $31,800. (Average: $20,000).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
STANTON — (1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $16,800. (Average $9,400).

'Navy' Premiere To Be Short-Waved

World premiere of Paramount's "The Navy Way," March 24, will feature a short-wave broadcast of the ceremonies to fighting men overseas.

During a six-day pre-premiere period, six national broadcasts and ten local Chicago programs will be aired with film stars as guests. The premiere will be attended by high ranking Naval officers as well as players featured in the cast.

Operators Block 'Bell'

SEATTLE, March 8.—Scheduled opening of Paramount's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" at the Music Hall Theatre here has been blocked by Local 154, motion picture operators, who maintain that the booth must be manned by two men because the film is being "roadshown." The theatre disagrees, claiming that "Yankee Doodle Dandy" appeared here as a roadshow and was not interfered with.

Anniversary Short Set

Release date for the Columbia Screen Snapshot commemorating the 50th anniversary of the industry has been set for April 21. The reel, produced by Ralph Staub, contains footage dating back to the 1890s.

Reissues Lukas Film

Film Classics is re-releasing "The Lady Vanishes," starring Paul Lukas, because he won the Academy award last week for acting. RKO has booked the film for its Brooklyn circuit, starting today.

Short Subject Reviews

"Roaring Guns"
(*Warner Bros.*)

One of the best in the Santa Fe Trail series, "Roaring Guns" is a story of the period following the gold rush era. Mining syndicates take over the territory and their hydraulic water monitors cause landslides which ruin the land and take the lives of many of the ranchers. Robert Shayne, an engineer, joins the settlers in their revolt against the syndicates. It's an exciting story, well told and capably directed by Jean Negulesco. Narration by Art Baker is excellent. Running time, 20 mins.

"Hullaba Lulu"
(*Paramount*)

"Lulu," in her second screen appearance, goes to the circus. She heckles the barker throughout the show and finally maneuvers him into a cage with a man-eating lion. These "Little Lulu" cartoons' musical score is very well handled; Lulu has appeal for everyone. Her followers will like this one as well as they did her first. Running time, 9 mins.

"The Barefoot Judge"
(*Universal*)

The latest in the "Person-Oddity" parade features Judge Tom Smiley of Kansas City, Tex., who has "sworn off" shoes for the duration. He even appears in court with bare feet. Also included are a dentist who performs feats of magic while caring for his patients; two men who have invented a machine for making fishhooks, and the washing of the river in San Antonio, Tex. Each subject has been handled carefully and treated interestingly. Running time, 9 mins.

"Say Ah, Jasper"
(*Paramount*)

George Pal's "Madcap Model Puppetoons" series has provided exhibitors with many good show-building aids, and "Say Ah, Jasper" is no exception. It's a delightful fantasy, artistically done, which will entertain both children and the adults. Jasper falls asleep, with a toothtache, and dreams of dentists and drills and laughing-gas gadgets. Running time, 8 mins.

E. J Peskay Testifies On Product Refusal

NEW HAVEN, March 8.—Refusal of eight major distributors to furnish product in 1937 and '38 for the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, which closed early in 1939, was claimed in Federal Court here today by E. J. Peskay, who operated the house.

On the stand as the first plaintiff's witness in the trial of the $5,000,000 anti-trust suit brought by Prefect Theatres, Greenfield, Inc., and the Fairfield Holding Corp., Peskay said his efforts to buy either all or part of the majors' films, for showing 14 days after Stamford without regard to clearance on Portchester, resulted in flat refusals or promises of help that never materialized. The witness recounted conversations with over 25 executives including W. P. Scully, A. Montague, Lou Astor, Rube Jackter, J. J. Unger, Neil Agnew, Frank J. A. McCarthy, John Clark, Roy Haines, Edward Schnitzer, Jules Levey, Edward L. McEvoy, Ned E. Depinet, George Schaeffer, William Sussman, Clarence Hill, Harry Gold and A. W. Smith, Jr.

Saul Rogers, attorney for the plaintiffs, expects to finish the direct examination of Peskay tomorrow and turn him over to counsel for the defendants: Loew's, 20th-Fox, Paramount, RKO and others.

Tamara's Estate Sues

A suit asking $110,000 from Pan-American Airways, for the death of Tamara Drasin Swann, star killed in the Yankee Clipper crash at Lisbon, Portugal, last year, has been filed in Federal court here recently by Erwin D. Swann, administrator of the Swann estate.

Last 'Show' Meeting

Final meeting of the entertainment committee for the "Show of Shows," to be held Monday night in Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, will be held tomorrow at 5 P.M. in the screening room of the Roxy Theatre.

SAG Files Answer to Warners' Allegation

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—The Screen Actors Guild today filed answer denying the charges set forth in Warner's suit over the guild's refusal to permit players to accept pro rata pay for appearances in "Hollywood Canteen." "Boxoffice value and not manhours of work is the only true gauge of a star's work in a picture," the SAG answer stated.

Also listed in the document were arguments presented to the guild by Warners when the studio sought pro rata pay permission under Rule 33, as well as a denial of Warners' allegation that the rule violated any provisions of the basic agreement between the two groups.

Gary, Ind., Clearance Complaint Ruled Out

The clearance complaint of the Gary Theatre Corp., operating the Palace Theatre, Gary, Ind., against RKO and 20th-Fox, has been dismissed by George E. Fraser, arbitrator at the Chicago tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

In its complaint, Gary allaged that existing clearances held by the Tivoli, Avalon, Southtown, Capitol and Chicago theatres over the Palace were unreasonable. The arbitrator in dismissing the complaint found that the plaintiff failed to furnish sufficient evidence to substantiate his claims.

Chaplin Trial Ordered

HOLLYWOOD, March 8. — Superior Court Justice Stanley Mosk today denied Charles Chaplin's plea for dismissal of Joan Barry's suit charging him with paternity of her daughter. "The court is convinced," Mosk said, "that the ends of justice can best be served by a full and fair trial of the issues." The denial followed a week's study of arguments about the color of the actor's eyes and a blood test in which three doctors decided the actor could not be the father of three-month-old Carol Ann.

Bill of Particulars Is Filed by Rosyl

NEWARK, March 8. — Federal Judge William Bondy today directed the Rosyl Amusement Corp., operator of the Cameo Theatre, in Jersey City, to serve a further bill of particulars upon Skouras Theatres Corp. in its conspiracy action against Skouras and a group of distributors and theatre operating companies in Hudson County. The service is to be made within 15 days, Judge Bondy directed, and the time within which Skouras must answer the complaint, filed some months ago, is extended for 30 days after the new service is made.

The court's order directs Rosyl to set forth, with respect to Skouras, terms of the alleged conspiracy, the combination or agreement among the defendants which resulted, the complaint claims, in the reduction of the Cameo Theatre to a second or third-run house and which allegedly damaged its business. The order also directs Rosyl to state the means agreed upon to carry out the conspiracy, specifically stating the part claimed to have been played therein by Skouras.

Hochstein Trial Is Postponed to April 4

Federal Judge Murray Hulbert, at the request of special Federal prosecutor Boris Kostelanetz, has postponed until April 4 the trial of Harry Hochstein, former Chicago city official, charged with perjuring himself before a special Federal Grand Jury probing certain phases of the industry.

Meanwhile, following a denial by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals of bail application made by the six convicted Chicago gangsters, Kostelanetz has acted to bring them to an early trial under a mail fraud indictment. This move, it is believed, is an effort by the Government to force the defendants either to change their innocent pleas or go to trial.

To See 'Wassell' Apr. 1

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—The special premiere of "The Story of Dr. Wassell" sponsored by the U. S. Navy Department, the Navy League and the Naval Relief Society, will be held April 1 in Constitution Hall, Washington, with Comdr. Corydon M. Wassell, Cecil B. DeMille, Gary Cooper and Federal officials attending. The public premiere will follow on April 20 in Little Rock, Ark., the doctor's home town.

Films in WPB Show

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Pictures showing how labor and management are cooperating in more than 4,000 war plants play a part in an exposition which was opened free to the public here last weekend under the sponsorship of the War Production Board.

'Monster' Premiere

CHICAGO, March 8.—Republic's "The Lady and the Monster" will have its world premiere here at the Woods Theatre on March 15. A pre-opening campaign will embrace newspapers, billboards, radio spot announcements and a direct mailing project, according to Steve Edwards, Republic's publicity manager.

How Crazy Are Critics?

Probably every motion picture critic in America has been called crazy—or worse—during his career. That's natural, in a field where one man's orchid is so often another man's onion.

Personally, we at Warner Bros. dote on critics, and proclaim their soundness of judgment. Why shouldn't we? Consider:

* * *

Four Warner Bros. pictures were among "The Ten Best" of 1943 selected by 439 leading newspaper and magazine critics in an impartial nation-wide poll. (No other company had more than two.)

Warner Bros.' "Watch On The Rhine" was voted The Best Picture Of 1943 by the Motion Picture Critics of New York—who also voted our Ida Lupino The Best Actress, and Paul Lukas (for his performance in a Warner Bros. picture) The Best Actor.

And recently, *The New York Times*, in reviewing a WB picture, referred to this company's "*enviable record for combining good citizenship with good picture-making*".

* * *

We think these and other tributes from critics reflect strongly on the rightness of a long-standing Warner Bros. policy: *to make pictures that will help to further those freedoms which are basic to democracy.*

And whatever the verdict on critics, they seem to see eye to eye with you, the American public. For you have, by your enthusiastic acclaim for our product, proved your agreement with that policy!

You'll prove it again when you see

IDA LUPINO

and

PAUL HENREID

in



"IN OUR TIME"

NANCY COLEMAN · MARY BOLAND · VICTOR FRANCEN · NAZIMOVA
Directed by VINCENT SHERMAN • Produced by JERRY WALD
Original Screen Play by Ellis St. Joseph and Howard Koch • Music by Franz Waxman

For here you'll find not only a wondrous love story, brilliantly and tenderly told, but also a story of a man and a woman who learned that ecstasy alone is not enough for those who seek happiness.

It is, we feel, *one of the most important Warner Bros. pictures ever made.* Be sure to see it.

WARNER BROS. PICTURES
JACK L. WARNER, *Executive Producer* INCORPORATED

PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE · DESTINATION TOKYO · THE DESERT SONG · WATCH ON THE RHINE · THIS IS THE ARMY · PRINCESS O'ROURKE · OLD ACQUAINTANCE

In this advertisement—11th in a series appearing widely in national publications—we tell again how this Company consistently is building plus-values of inspiration and Americanism into Warner Brothers Pictures. Your comments on this or other advertisements in the series will be welcomed.

40-Hr. Rulings Preclude 30% Pay Increase

(Continued from page 1)

48-hour week are filed by the distributors on the grounds that "the increased work-week would not increase production and release workers." In the index of "essential activities" released by the WMC last month, only the production of technical and vocational training films for the Army, Navy and war production industries, and motion picture film processing and newsreel work are listed as essential.

Contrary to the distributors' position on the 48-hour week, distributor representatives met early last month with Regional WMC officials in Philadelphia to have film exchanges there declared "locally needed establishments" in order to hold on to workers threatened with being ordered into war industry. Exchange workers have not been considered essential otherwise.

Next Areas Unknown

Distributor executives here are unable to predict in what exchange centers the WMC is likely to order 48-hour work weeks next. But in view of past experiences in securing exemptions, they say they are not concerned. Exemptions have been secured in Buffalo, Detroit, Washington, Cleveland, Portland, Ore., Indianapolis, Salt Lake City, Oklahoma City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago and Boston, with rulings on appeals awaited in Milwaukee and Seattle.

Film Salesmen Will Contact Field Houses

(Continued from page 3)

said. "That they have done a highly effective job, of which the industry and the entire country can be proud, is evident from the response thus far from the nation's showmen."

Although practically every large city theatre is already pledged, smaller communities, necessarily more difficult to reach, have lagged, it was said. In order more efficiently to reach these outlying spots, the distributors have assigned each of their film salesmen ten theatres with instructions that their first duty during the Red Cross drive is to get signed pledges and promises from those showmen to make "collections at every performance—every day" in order to meet and exceed the industry's $10,000,000 goal.

William Mart Passes

GRINNELL, Ia., March 8.—William H. Mart, 60, pioneer exhibitor in Iowa and, for the past 10 years, a partner with Central States theatre circuit in the Iowa and Strand theatres here, died recently at the Iowa theatre of a heart attack.

Survivors are his wife, a son George and a sister, Mrs. F. O. Manly.

50 Cent Loew Dividend

Loew's, Inc., at a directors' meeting held at the home offices yesterday, declared a 50-cent common stock dividend payable on March 31 to stockholders of record March 23.

Millions Budgeted for Film Air Promotions

(Continued from page 1)

both National and Columbia broadcasting systems have little key time available for a film or other network program, their Blue and Mutual network competitors have time. RKO's program is on the Blue and M-G-M's is on Mutual.

M-G-M will spend its $1,000,000 between its Fulton Oursler, 15-minute, five-nights-weekly program on 60 stations of Mutual and musical "chatter" programs in Cincinnati, Chicago and Minneapolis, and spot-announcement campaigns on individual films.

May Add Another $1,000,000

RKO's current year's budget is running between its recently launched Blue network program over 20 West Coast stations and on campaigns on individual pictures. The network tie-up is an experiment and should it prove suitable, still another $1,000,000 a year would be added to extend that program to the full Blue web.

Both Warner and Paramount radio-film emphasis has been on promotional tie-ups rather than the actual dollar expenditures of their own. Warner Bros. has been considering a network program for several months but no definite decision has been reached.

Twentieth Century-Fox has been going in heavy for spot announcement campaigns in recent months but no figures are available on the total being spent. Columbia also is going in for extensive spot announcements, with "None Shall Escape" currently receiving a special radio advertising campaign. United Artists and Universal are also using radio spot announcements on individual pictures.

Republic is now spending about $200,000 a year to advertise its pictures by radio with spot announcements. This company first turned to radio extensively last June.

Increased 18 Times

Indicative of the extent to which film companies are using radio spot announcements to advertise are the increases in film advertising on radio stations here. In January and February of this year, WABC, New York outlet of CBS, increased its film advertising billings 18 times over the same two months of 1943. WOR's 1943 increase was four times over 1942. WJZ, WMCA and WNEW had three times as much revenue from film companies during the first two months of this year. NBC's spot sales division reports that film advertising on NBC and Westinghouse-owned stations has doubled.

Donahue, Coe Will Aid Air Promotions

Donahue and Coe, New York advertising agency, whose film clients include M-G-M, Republic, Samuel Goldwyn and others, reports that it is going "all out" on radio for its motion picture advertisers. A. Carl Rigrod of RKO will join the agency on March 15 in line with the agency's plan to establish a staff of radio writers, producers and directors and time-buyers who either know or can be trained to requirements peculiar to radio exploitation of motion pictures.

Radio Men Added

Donahue and Coe pointed to the increasing importance of radio in motion picture advertising, in disclosing that during the past 30 days other staff additions have included Richard Nicholls, former radio director of Morse International; Joe Lincoln, time buyer for Erwin-Wasey; John Hugh, writer and producer from Kenyon and Eckhardt; Bob Monroe, radio producer; Latham Ovens, script writer for WLW, Cincinnati, and Betty Barrett, former J. Walter Thompson and Morse spot time-buyer.

The agency's film-radio department will function independently of its general radio department.

Rigrod has been with RKO for the past five years in charge of the writing and production of that company's radio activities, including special radio promotions. He recently returned from Hollywood where he produced a number of transcribed shows to be used in connection with the promotion of Samuel Goldwyn's "Up in Arms."

Bobby Connolly, 49, Dance Director, Dies

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—William H. (Bobby) Connolly, song and dance director for various studios, especially Warners and M-G-M, died of a heart attack Feb. 29 at his home in Encino, Cal., it was announced here today.

Connolly, a native of Boston and educated at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, came to Hollywood in 1933 after staging dance ensembles for numerous Broadway musicals including the "Ziegfeld Follies." Here he created and staged the dance numbers for such films as "Sons o' Guns," "The King and the Chorus Girl," "Broadway Melody of 1940" and "The Wizard of Oz." He prepared virtually all the dance numbers for the Eleanor Powell productions.

Griffith Answers Anti-Trust Charges

(Continued from page 1)

consideration because of the statute of limitations. They further state that the complainants fail to state a cause of action against them upon which relief can be granted, and deny that the plaintiff theatres are comparable to those of the defendants.

Momand is still awaiting a decision on a separate damage suit against Phillips in which Judge Bower Broaddus of Western Oklahoma Federal District Court heard in December, 1942. Momand says the contentions of the earlier suit are "merely brought up to date by the more recent action."

The Federal Government has not yet begun its review of Eastman's 1943 business for the purpose of re-negotiating contract prices and profits.

Eastman '43 Profit $22,270,403; Jump Of Million in Year

(Continued from page 1)

making a total tax of $43,977,443, against $39,130,738 in 1942.

Capital stock dividends declared in 1943 were the regular six percent on preferred and $5.00 per share on common, for a total of $12,750,007, compared with $13,988,013 the year before. Eastman's earned surplus rose from $49,765,223 at the beginning of 1943 to $59,285,619 at the end. This compares with $42,569,721 at the beginning of 1942.

During 1943 the production of film continued at capacity levels, with a large part of the output going to the military services. "An understanding and cooperative spirit," stated the officials, "has been exhibited by trade customers of the company in connection with film rationing and the general shortage of civilian goods."

Kodak, Ltd., England, from which Eastman had received no dividends for several years, principally because of working capital requirements and foreign-exchange-control regulations, paid a dividend of $1,408,750 in 1943.

Three Judges Will Pick 'Honored 100'

(Continued from page 1)

picking theatre men from the 48 states, Hawaii and Alaska to be designated as the "Honored 100," as selected from over 10,000 contestants, and who will act as an advisory committee for the industry in the Fifth War Loan drive. They will be awarded an all-expense trip to Washington, where they will receive tribute scrolls and personal letters from Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

State exhibitor and Treasury War Finance Committee chairmen are now completing the final check-up of entries and results. One winner from each state will be named and nominations will be made in each of the several population classifications. All selections will be made on the basis of actual individual "E" bond sales in ratio to the number of seats.

No one person, it is pointed out, may win two awards. State chairman will send nominations to the three national judges in New York. When all nominations are in, the judges will select the winners on the basis of certified sales reports. Only showmen who have sold a minimum of "A Bond for Every Seat" are eligible in the competition.

Producers and IATSE Argue on Proposals

(Continued from page 1)

with Casey this morning and will be joined by IATSE representatives in the afternoon. First definite action is expected on the union proposals at today's session. Although Casey indicated on Monday that negotiations will take about three weeks, an IATSE official indicated yesterday that it will be much longer before a new contract for the 15,000 IATSE craftsmen in 15 locals is formulated. Provisions of the new contract will be retroactive to Jan. 1, date of expiration of the previous two-year agreement.

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 49 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1944 TEN CENTS

MPTOA Will Decide Decree Stand March 20

Executive Committee to Meet in Washington

The MPTOA executive committee is scheduled to meet at the Willard Hotel, Washington, March 20 and 21, to correlate the views of the regional associations which are members of the national organization on the consenting companies' decree proposals which were presented to the Department of Justice last month.



Ed Kuykendall

After analyzing the decree views of all of MPTOA's associated organizations, the executive

(*Continued on page 13*)

Circuit Repair Plans To Cost $1,760,000

Already blueprinted is a minimum of approximately $1,760,000 to be spent by New York theatre circuits immediately after the war on repairs and replacements, according to C. R. Beardsley, secretary of the New York City Postwar Industrial Committee. Estimate is based on interviews with

(*Continued on page 13*)

British Owners Plan For That Invasion

London, March 9.—Arrangements for the transportation of films in the event of a European invasion, which would dislocate highway and rail facilities, are being developed by the general council of the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association during the organization's annual meeting now in session here.

Distributor representatives of the Kinematograph Renters Association will meet with CEA exhibitors in the near future to discuss a plan to form local pools through which exhibitors could exchange pictures.

Majors' Red Cross Gifts Will Go 60% Over Last Year's

Every major company in the industry will increase its contribution to the Red Cross by at least 60 per cent, it was disclosed here yesterday by Herman Robbins, chairman of the corporate gifts committee in the WAC - motion picture theatres' 1944 Red Cross drive.



Herman Robbins

The companies were requested to increase on the basis of last year's national total being $125,000,000 while this year it has been raised to $200,000,000, an increase of 60

(*Continued on page 3*)

War Work Leads at M-G-M Sales Meet

Distribution of war subjects for the War Activities Committee and coordinated efforts connected with war work, will hold a top spot on the agenda of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer five-day war-and-sales conference to be held at the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, beginning tomorrow. William

(*Continued on page 12*)

Raftery, Sears West On Korda Stock Plan

Edward C. Raftery, United Artists president, and Gradwell Sears, vice-president, will leave for Hollywood today where they will submit to company owners Sir Alexander Korda's proposal for the sale of his stockholdings in the company.

Korda's sales price was made known to Raftery and Sears at meetings here this week. It is understood to be higher than Korda's last previous asking price, which was rejected by the company.

$252,000 Loan to Monogram Pictures

W. Ray Johston, president of Monogram Pictures Corp., disclosed here yesterday that Monogram franchise holders and certain of the company's executives, as well as some individuals associated with the company, had arranged to loan the company $252,113, repayable by the company through the issuance within 15 months of 84,037 shares of Monogram stock.

The plan was originally approved at the last meeting of the board of directors here. When the new stock is issued there will be outstanding 500,000 shares of common.

Banks here and in Los Angeles which have been extending credit to Monogram recently renewed that extension to the extent of $1,000,000.

"The White Cliffs"

[M-G-M]

WITH the fragile inspiration of Alice Duer Miller's poem, "The White Cliffs," which bespeaks her love of England, as a starting point, M-G-M craftsmen have rounded out a very fine motion picture. It is almost wholly an example of craftsmanship, even though on occasion it resorts to obvious devices, and again it achieves planes of artistry well above the levels of exceptionally good cinema.

The Clarence Brown-Sidney Franklin production, starring Irene Dunne, with Alan Marshal and a notable supporting cast, fits into the groove fashioned by the company with such pictures as "Mrs. Miniver," "Random Harvest," "Goodbye Mr. Chips" and others. It is, in short, another of those distinctive testimonials to England and her people, with all of the artistic and technical attributes of the others and with all of their audience appeal. There is, however, this difference: its heroine, who loses her English husband in the first World War, and her son in the present one, is American born, and at least the emotional ties which keep alive her pride in her homeland through her 25 years of residence in England never are severed.

THUS American audiences are invited to see England through her eyes and English audiences to see themselves and Americans in their midst through her experiences. Therewith, "The White Cliffs" is en-

(*Continued on page 8*)

London Sees Skouras-Rank In Agreement

Head of 20th-Fox Wins Ovation in London

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, March 9.—Indications that agreements on several fronts have been reached by Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, and J. Arthur Rank, British film and theatre mentor, were provided by Skouras in a talk at the luncheon given jointly in his honor by the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association, Kinematograph Renters Society and the British Film Producers Association at the Dorchester Hotel here today.



Spyros Skouras

The luncheon, which proved to be

(*Continued on page 13*)

IATSE Presents 26 'General' Proposals

Twenty-six IATSE 'general' proposals for a new contract for some 15,000 studio craftsmen in 15 locals have been submitted to the producers, it was learned at the conclusion of yesterday's session here between the

(*Continued on page 13*)

Exhibitor Trust Actions Mounting

Apparently because of the delay in negotiating a new consent decree, a marked increase in exhibitor anti-trust activities is noted in Federal Courts, while the number of decree arbitration actions is dwindling.

Since Dec. 1 there have been only seven new arbitration cases, compared with 76 in 1943, 119 in 1942 and 58 in 1941. Ten trust suits were filed last year, and at least 14 which have been on the dockets for several years have been pushed and are either now on trial or have been set for early hearing.

Kirsch Again Heads Allied of Illinois

CHICAGO, March 9.—Jack Kirsch was reelected president of Allied Theatres of Illinois for the fifth time at the organization's 14th annual meeting in the Hotel Blackstone here today. Also chosen again were Van A. Nomikos, vice-president; Richard B. Saulkin, secretary-treasurer, and Harry Nepo, sergeant-at-arms.

Newly elected to the board of directors were Arthur Davidson, Ben Banowitz, Bill Charuhas, John Semadatos and Edward Trinz; and re-elected were S. Roberts, Jack Rose, Charles Nelson, Ludwig Sussman, Benjamin Bartelstein, Joseph Stern, Verne Langdon, Benjamin Lasker, Abe Goldstein and Lou H. Harrison, in addition to Kirsch, Nomikos and Saulkin.

Main discussion of the meeting was on the new admission taxes and the Red Cross drive. Nate Schlott was accepted as a new member. There were 65 present, representing 135 theatres.

Aarons, Exhibitor Counsel, Passes

PHILADELPHIA, March 9.—George P. Aarons, 58, exhibitor organization counsel, died here last night at Presbyterian Hospital after a year's illness. He was counsel for Philadelphia MPTOA affiliated groups for the past 20 years, and for years was associate general counsel of the MPTOA and secretary and counsel for the United Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware.

Aarons entered the motion picture business in 1916, after finishing at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In 1918 he became a salesman for the old Vitagraph Buffalo branch and in 1919 returned to his native Philadelphia to sell for Masterpiece and other states-righters.

Butterfield Presents War Dep't Views

Allyn Butterfield, chief of the feature film section of the War Department, arrived here yesterday to confer with representatives of International Pictures, Samuel Goldwyn Productions, Paramount and 20th-Fox on story properties now in thier possession or about to be acquired dealing with the Army.

Purpose of his visit here, it is understood, is to interpret the views of the War Department in relation to scripts for new pictures.

Sheffield, Republic In New 4-City Deal

Republic Pictures here yesterday announced the renewal of its products franchise agreement with J. T. Sheffield covering the territories of Seattle, Portland, Denver and Salt Lake City territories, until June 30, 1945.

Personal Mention

EDWARD CAHILL, president, and W. L. JONES, vice-president of RCA Service Co., have returned to Camden from Chicago. HOMER B. SNOOK, RCA Photophone sales manager, and ADOLPH GOODMAN, assistant manager of RCA Service Co., have left Camden for Midwest tours.

•

MORT BLUMENSTOCK, Warner Eastern publicity and advertising head, and SAMUEL SCHNEIDER, assistant to HARRY WARNER, will leave today for the Coast. BEN KALMENSON, general sales manager, who is in St. Louis, will join the group tomorrow.

•

FLOYD STONE, *Motion Picture Herald* staff photographer, and ANN O'DONNELL of Boston, will be married here today in the Municipal Chapel.

•

JULES FIELDS of the 20th Century-Fox exploitation department left for Denver yesterday accompanied by LOU GOLDBERG, home office exploitation representative.

•

JOHN LIERLY, product manager of RCA Victor's Hollywood plant, has returned to the Coast after three weeks at RCA Eastern offices.

•

JACK GOLDSTEIN, 20th Century-Fox Eastern publicity manager, left yesterday for Miami for a two-week vacation.

•

WALTER TREANOR, former member of the Roxy Theatre, New York, service staff, has been promoted to Ensign in the Navy.

•

HARRY MERSAY, head of the 20th Century-Fox print service department, will join the Army this weekend.

GREGORY LACAVA, Hollywood director, has arrived in New York.

•

HUGH OWEN, Paramount Eastern division manager, will leave Monday for Boston, where he will confer with WILLIAM ERBB, district manager, and A. M. KANE, Boston branch manager.

•

JULES GIRDEN, Warners' circuit home office executive, underwent a sinus operation yesterday at Polyclinic Hospital. He is progressing well.

•

JOHN WALTON, Warner booker in Boston, has been inducted into the armed forces and has left for Fort Devens.

•

PHIL ENGEL, United Artists Boston publicist, has returned to Boston from a 17-day trip through his territory.

•

MRS. ALICE JORDAN, United Artists cashier in Boston, has returned to her post after a New York honeymoon.

•

FRANK HUGHES, Boston projectionist, has joined the U. S. Marines and is at Parris Island, S. C.

•

ROBERT M. GILLHAM, Paramount advertising and publicity director, was in Washington yesterday.

•

A. MONTAGUE, Columbia general sales manager, has gone to Palm Springs for a brief vacation.

•

W. J. GELL, managing director of Pathe Pictures, Ltd., London, is on his way to New York.

•

MAX BERLONE, United Artists Boston booker, has left for Army service.

H. Le Tempt, Veteran Manager, Dies at 42

DALLAS, March 9.—Homer Le Tempt, 42, manager of Interstate's Aztec Theatre in San Antonio since 1936, died there today after a six-week illness. He had been with the circuit since 1917, when he started as manager of the Queen Theatre, Austin, later moving to the same post at the Queen in Galveston and the Texas in San Antonio.

The deceased's wife, Mrs. Sally Le Tempt, is the only survivor. Interment will be at his old home, Harrisburgh, Ill.

L. B. Mayer Stricken, Returning to Coast

Louis B. Mayer, vice-president in charge of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production, currently on a visit in this city, has become ill and ordered home immediately by his physician. He is expected to leave here for the West Coast today.

Mayer was originally scheduled to return to Hollywood next Friday, the 17th, accompanied by Jack Potter of M-G-M's studio publicity staff.

King, Simpson Get New Publicity Posts

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—Don King will become publicity director of David O. Selznick's Vanguard Films on Monday, succeeding Mitchell Rawson, who resigned some months ago as Warners Eastern publicity manager to take the Vanguard post. Rawson recently resigned from Vanguard.

Also, Len Simpson will succeed 'Sandy' Abrahams, resigned, as publicity director for Edward Small Productions, Inc.

Albert Martin Joins Monogram on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—Albert F. Martin, former comptroller and treasurer of Paramount theatre subsidiaries and recently with 20th-Fox, has joined Monogram as chief accountant.

Martin succeeds Catherine Boyle, transferred to the office of George Burrows, vice-president and treasurer, as assistant treasurer.

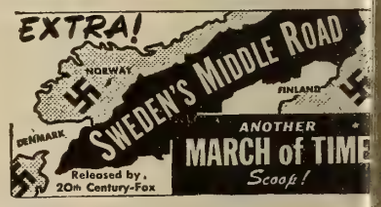
Meltzer Leaves W.B.

Allan Meltzer of Warners' home office publicity staff has resigned.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
DANNY KAYE
"UP IN ARMS"
Dinah Shore • Constance Cummings
In Technicolor Released thru RKO
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

Held Over 2nd Week



RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S
"The PURPLE HEART"
PLUS ON STAGE—COUNT BASIE and ORCH.—CAROL BRUCE—ZERO MOSTEL
BUY MORE BONDS ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
MICHAEL O'SHEA
SUSAN HAYWARD
"JACK LONDON"
First American Prisoner of the Japs

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
ON SCREEN
ROBERT TAYLOR
SUSAN PETERS
in M-G-M's
"SONG OF RUSSIA"
IN PERSON
Walter O'KEEFE
Ray EBERLE
Ben CARTER
& Manton MORELAND

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 10 a. m.
Rivoli
B'way & 49th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address. "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

'Purple Hearts' to Aid the Red Cross

10 Accessory Items Ready For Theatres

Ten accessories, described by the WAC here yesterday as being "equivalent to the most elaborate set of materials customarily supplied in merchandising the biggest films," are available to exhibitors to aid them in putting over the motion picture theatres' 1944 Red Cross Drive during the week of March 23-29.

National Screen Service branches in 31 key cities are distributing them.

Lead-off item, the press book, already has been sent direct to all theaters, with an additional supply being shipped to NSS offices for the filling of requests for additional books.

All theatres sending in their pledges will automatically receive, gratis, a "Red Cross Kit" containing, among other things, one 40 x 60, one one-sheet and five midget window cards. Third item being sent to exhibitors gratis is a composite ad-slug-mat, carrying assorted slugs suitable for use in various size spaces.

An eight-foot valance, ushers' sashes, a 30 x 40 banner, a 30-foot pennant streamer, and sets of eight x ten stills, five to a set, are among the other accessories available to exhibitors on order.

Sample kits of the accessories have been sent to all branch film exchanges.

Comm. Wassell at Industry Rally

San Francisco, March 9.—The presence and address of Commander Corydon M. Wassell at the War Activities Committee-motion picture theatres' 1944 Red Cross rally here brought home to the scores of assembled distributor and exhibitor representatives the urgent need for the complete mobilization of the nation's theatres in the March 23-29 Red Cross collections. These collections, "at every performance, every day, will mean American lives saved in battle zones," stressed the Navy man.

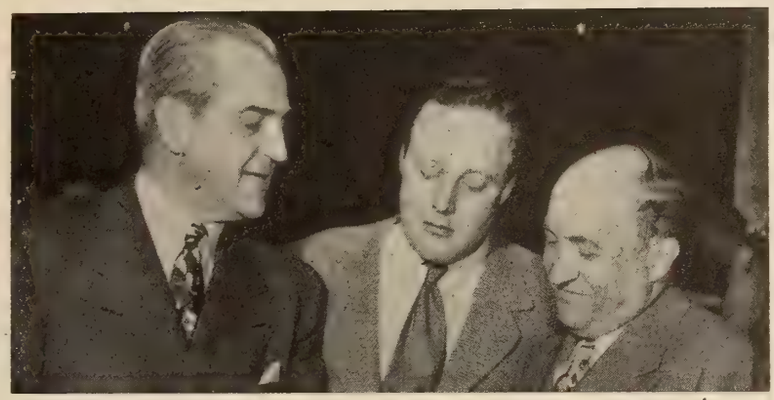
Commander Wassell is the physician hero of Java's invasion by the Japs, whose life story is now being produced in Hollywood.

Blood-Bank Heralds Red Cross Drive

Columbus, O., March 9.—Loew's Ohio Theatre here is the first Central Ohio house to set up a special Red Cross donor display and application counter as part of an advance campaign for the industry's Red Cross drive week. The lobby set-up is manned by Red Cross workers and includes Red Cross posters and literature. Several hundred blood donors already have been obtained.

Drive Leaders At Work in the Field





(Upper Photo) A. Julian Brylawski, president of the MPTO of the District of Columbia; Sam Dembow and A. W. Smith, Jr., of the War Activities Committee's traveling representatives for the Red Cross drive, who spoke at the Washington, D. C. campaign rally.

(Lower Photo) Ned E. Depinet, Leonard Gruenberg and Harry Brandt discuss Salt Lake exchange territory's participation in the drive at the Salt Lake airport.

Majors' Red Cross Gifts Will Go 60% Over 1943

(Continued from page 1)

per cent. Thus, it is essential that to exceed or even meet the 1944 quota, every company must subscribe at least an equivalent increase over 1943, Robbins pointed out.

Meanwhile, Robbins announced that there will be three divisions in the corporate gifts set-up, each of which will function independently under him. First is for gifts from the companies themselves, embracing all non-theatre units, including producers, distributors, exchanges, laboratories, newsreels, film libraries, film delivery companies, non-theatrical concerns and related units.

Second, a top executive has been appointed in each company to obtain individual gifts from other top executives. These gifts, too, are expected to total at least 60 per cent more than last year. The committee chairmen include: Samuel Schneider, Warner; Neil Agnew, Paramount; Jack Cohn, Columbia; Malcolm Kingsberg, RKO; William Michel, 20th Century-Fox; John J. O'Connor, Universal; Gradwell L. Sears, United Artists, and James R. Grainger, Republic.

The third field for the corporate gifts committee is the general personnel of each company, with a chairman for each making a personal appeal in home offices.

All of these activities are under the general chairmanship of Robbins, with Joseph R. Vogel as his co-chairman. Sam Rinzler and George J. Schaefer are also on the committee.

200 Pledged on Coast

Los Angeles, March 9.—Following a Red Cross luncheon this week in San Francisco, pledges from the 200 attending exhibitors were received, it was announced by Charles P. Skouras, Pacific area campaign director.

War Heroes on Theatre Stages To Aid Drive

Thirty per cent of the exhibitors in the country already have made plans to utilize war heroes in connection with the Red Cross drive as a prelude to theatre collections during the week of March 23-29.

"It is the opinion of many exhibitors that nothing can stir an audience like a returned hero, the first-hand personal story of a man whose life was saved by the Red Cross being the most vivid plea that can be made," in the opinion of the industry's WAC Red Cross drive committee.

Plans are being formulated, by the committee, therefore, for these men to speak from theatre stages wherever possible to lend strength to the industry's campaign on behalf of the drive, the War Activities Committee disclosed here yesterday.

"The lads with the Purple Heart, who have tasted of the generosity the Red Cross is providing for them, are the most eloquent speakers for the cause despite any lack of stage presence or oratorical ability," declared the WAC, adding: "The men returned from the fronts have stories to tell which are eagerly heard by the folks at home whose participation in the war has been less dramatic."

The WAC advised that exhibitors will find it easy to approach heroes to ask them to aid in the campaign. Public relations chairmen in each key city plan to use heroes in every situation possible, working with publicity representatives of the Red Cross to arrange for personal appearances at theatres. War Activities Committee exhibitor chairmen in each city will arrange for the appearances. Speakers from all service branches will be available.

"Since the Red Cross is in constant touch with Army, Navy and Marine Corps officials and with Army and Navy hospitals they have up-to-the-minute information on the identities and service records of service men who have returned from the fronts," the WAC reports. "The Coast Guard and Merchant Marine should also be asked to supply men."

In many cases it is planned to use experienced masters of ceremonies to keep things moving and help the boys.

Theatre Plan for Theatre-less Towns

Milwaukee, March 9.—Marcel Brazee, Warner zone advertising manager, has a plan for theater managers to organize a group of war veterans and prominent speakers to visit communities having no theaters and stage local rallies in behalf of motion picture theaters' Red Cross drive. Contributions obtained at the rallies will be included in totals reported for the industry.



THIS AD CONTRIBUTED BY 20th CENTURY-FOX

FE AND DEATH!

Make it a matter of LIFE,

CT FUNDS AT EVERY RMANCE EVERY DAY!

With your aid, The Red Cross
will deliver 5,000,000
pints of blood plasma
to the Army and Navy
this year in the biggest
life-saving job in history!



MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY RED CROSS WEEK MARCH 23-29

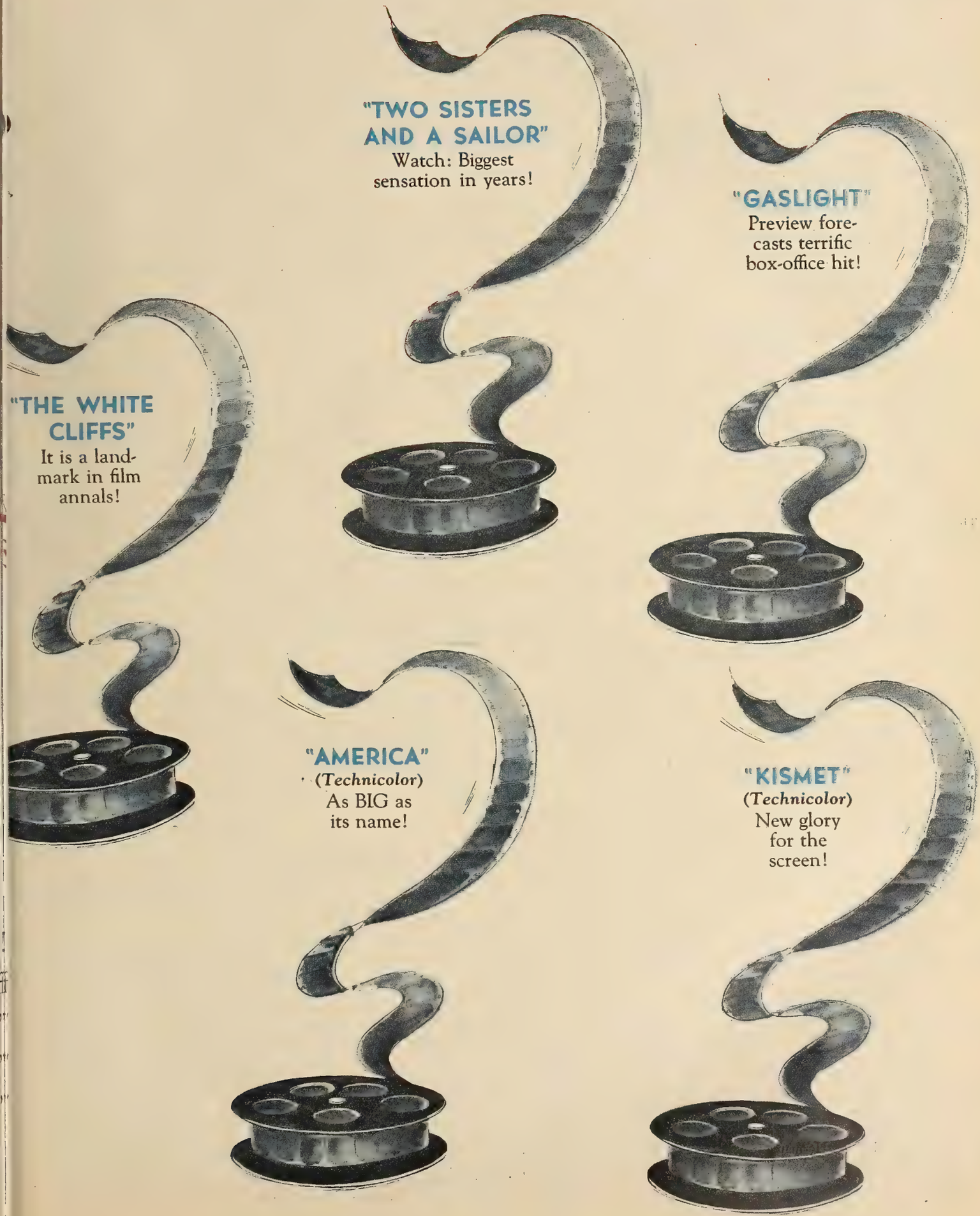
"THAT



Just a few of the M-G-M Previews that keep Hollywood busy these nights! It's *future* joy from the hit-happy outfit that's giving Showmen the pay-off product *today* with hits like: "A Guy Named Joe," "Thousands Cheer," "Madame Curie," "Girl Crazy," "Lassie Come Home," "Broadway Rhythm," "See Here, Private Hargrove," "Song of Russia," "The Heavenly Body," "Lost Angel" and more M-G-Movies-for-the-millions!

"Calling All Patriotic Showmen!
Red Cross Drive March 23rd Through 29th."

OLD M-G-MAGIC!"



"TWO SISTERS AND A SAILOR"
Watch: Biggest sensation in years!

"GASLIGHT"
Preview forecasts terrific box-office hit!

"THE WHITE CLIFFS"
It is a landmark in film annals!

"AMERICA"
(Technicolor)
As BIG as its name!

"KISMET"
(Technicolor)
New glory for the screen!

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 9

CHARLES W. KOERNER, executive vice-president in charge of production at RKO Radio studios, has announced that "Elizabeth Kenny" will be made as soon as the story is in shape. Rosalind Russell has never refused to make the picture, as reported, Koerner said.

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The National Labor Relations Board hearing on the Screen Players Union's petition for a collective bargaining election among extras has been recessed until Tuesday by examiner Charles Ryan. SPU plans to present numerous additional witnesses, after which the Screen Actors Guild will give testimony.

•

R. C. Sherriff, author of "Journey's End," will join Paul Soskin, English producer, as associate producer. Soskin's organization is part of the newly-formed Independent Producers, Ltd., London, of which J. Arthur Rank is chairman.

•

Warner Bros. has purchased the screen rights to a story of Vincent Youman's life, which Arthur Schwartz will produce under the title "Sometimes I'm Happy," with Ann Sheridan and Dennis Morgan co-starred.

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Paramount has announced a remake of "The Virginian" in Technicolor, with James Brown and Gail Russell co-starred; Paul Jones will produce. The property was produced by Paramount in 1923 and 1929.

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Constance Bennett will produce and star in "Blonde Ice," her first assignment for PRC and the second color picture on the company's schedule, vice-president Leon Fromkess announced yesterday.

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Mark Sandrich has signed a new five-year contract with Paramount as producer-director. Pact calls for him to make one film a year and allows him to make three outside productions during the five years.

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RKO has bought eight Zane Grey novels and will do them as a series of high-budget Westerns, the first scheduled for the stages this summer.

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Constantin R. Bakaleinikoff has been signed to a new term contract as head of the RKO music department.

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Republic announced today it will start a new series of eight Westerns, starring Allan Lane; William O'Sullivan is supervising producer.

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Lee Marcus has resigned, effective immediately, as executive assistant to Edward Small, due to ill health.

•

M-G-M has purchased "Once Upon a Furlough," an original comedy about returned war heroes.

Herman Raymaker Dies

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—Herman Raymaker, 51, director of many Westerns and adventure films, died here yesterday of a heart attack.

"The White Cliffs"

(*Continued from page 1*)

dowed with a "hands-across-the-sea" motif and makes its plea for better understanding between the two peoples. In this it is aided by the effective characterizations of Marshal, Gladys Cooper, C. Aubrey Smith, Roddy McDowall, Dame May Whitty, Peter Lawford and others as the exemplars of British manners and traditions, and by Miss Dunne and Frank Morgan, American father of the heroine, who expresses a commonly encountered American attitude toward Britain in a thoroughly enjoyable fashion.

On what was intended to be a brief visit to England in 1914, Miss Dunne meets and is married to Marshal. He is killed in action shortly before the Armistice. She remains in England with their son after the war until the portents of the new war are brought home to her. Rebelling against the possible sacrifice of her son as her husband had been sacrificed, she decides to return to America with the child but is dissuaded by him through his youthful conception of what is his duty. They remain in England and, when war breaks out again, the youth is mortally wounded at Dieppe. This is the barest outline of the story, which is rich in charming, moving and amusing detail and incident throughout. The picture ends on the re-emphasized obligation of the American and British people to their dead in this war—the obligation to insure a peace that will not mock the dead, as the dead were mocked by the peace which followed the first World War.

BROWN'S direction has given an added sheen to sparkling performances by Miss Dunne, Marshal, McDowall, Miss Cooper, Morgan, Smith and Lawford. The Franklin production is in the established M-G-M tradition of unstinted personnel and properties. The screenplay is by Claudine West, Jan Lustig and George Froeschel.

"The White Cliffs" is a choice item for the largest segments of both the American and British film audiences. Important though its overtones be, its fundamental human drama, its appealing romance, its stirring emotion transcend them in audience effect.

Running time, 126 minutes. Classification, "G."* Release date not set.

SHERWIN KANE

**"G" denotes general classification.*

MOT Releasing New Aids to Exhibitors

Phil Williams, advertising director for March of Time here, reports that the company will distribute several new MOT selling aids for exhibitors to help meet the reduction in newspaper space allotted to theatre advertising.

Special news features have been designed, in addition to commercial radio copy, as well as a permanent MOT screen slide with playdate and title space. Also available shortly will be a new lobby display designed for 22x28 and 11x14 cards.

Columbia Designates Sales Drive Awards

Columbia Pictures here has set aside special cash awards for division managers further to heighten interest in the company's "Dates to Win" campaign. Prizes will be given to the division managers whose districts take from first to fourth place in the drive, which concludes June 22.

District managers eligible for the awards are: Nat Cohn, Carl Shalit, Sam Moscow, Sam Galanty, Jerome Safron and Ben Marcus.

Backus Dallas Manager

DALLAS, March 9.—Paul Backus, United Artists film salesman here for the past two years, has been named acting branch manager of the Dallas exchange by Fred M. Jack, Southern division manager. Backus will replace Byron James, who was recently inducted into the Navy and is awaiting orders to report. Edgar Laird, former UA salesman, will return to the exchange to take over the vacant post.

'Wassell' Preview Funds to Red Cross

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Proceeds from the preview of "The Story of Dr. Wassell," to be held April 1 in Constitution Hall here, will go to the Navy League's 1944 Red Cross drive, it was disclosed here today by Robert M. Gillham, Paramount director of advertising-publicity, who is in this city planning the event.

Guest of honor will be Commander Corydon M. Wassell. Other guests will be Mrs. Wassell, Gary Cooper and Mrs. Cooper, Signe Hasso, and Sidney Biddell, Gladys Rosson and Ken Whitemore of the Cecil B. De Mille staff, as well as the producer and his wife.

PCA Votes Schlager Five-Year Contract

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—Sig Schlager was voted a five-year contract as general manager of Producers Corporation of America at the stockholders' meeting here today, attended by Del E. Webb, James A. Smith, Charles L. Straus, T. J. Byrne and Mrs. Una Stanley, all of Phoenix, Ariz.

Also approved at the meeting was a $10,000,000 ten-picture program for United Artists release.

'Voice' Here Tuesday

The New York premiere of United Artists' "Voice in the Wind" will be held here Tuesday evening, at the New Victoria Theatre. Francis Lederer and Sigrid Gurie, stars of the Ripley-Monter production, will be among the preview guests.

Peskay Says Majors Broke Agreements

NEW HAVEN, March 9.—On his third day of direct examination here in the trial of the anti-trust suit brought by the Fairfield Holding Corp. and others, E. J. Peskay, former Connecticut theatre operator, today described an eight-month agreement he said he made with the major distributors in February, 1939, in the presence of a Department of Justice representative, whereby the showing of films in the Portchester house would start the day following the conclusion of a White Plains engagement and showings in his Pickwick, Greenwich, would start the day after Portchester.

Peskay said that, while the Pickwick, according to the agreement, was to get product 21 days after Stamford, pictures were actually not available until later. He revealed that a proposed deal of December, 1939, whereby Loew's would take over the Pickwick, never materialized, allegedly because it failed to meet with Department of Justice approval, which the witness said he questioned, regarding the negotiations merely as an attempt to prevent a suit from being brought.

Detroit Faces 50% Increase in Licenses

DETROIT, March 9.—Public hearings will be held next week on city license fee increases which would boost rates for film houses by 50 per cent, Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., said here.

Hearings were decided on after the Mayor told controller Charles G. Oakman, who drew up the new rates, license fees should not be a revenue source but should simply cover costs of necessary inspections. Oakman maintained that current fees were below those charged in other comparable cities.

'Lady' Premiere Opens New Twin-City House

MINNEAPOLIS, March 9.—First Northwest showing of Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" marked the opening here last night of the Radio City Theatre and the new studios of radio station KSTP, Twin Cities outlet of NBC, located in the theatre.

Among the industry executives present were: Leonard H. Goldenson, Sam Dembow, John Balaban, Ralph Branton, Ben Marcus and John J. Friedl, president of Minnesota Amusement Co., which operates the theatre, who was host.

Republic Sues Sunbrock

CHICAGO, March 9.—Roy Rogers and Republic have obtained an injunction in U. S. District Court here enjoining Sunbrock Shows and Ken Rogers, who is appearing at a rodeo at the Coliseum here, from advertising Ken Rogers as "King of the Cowboys" or otherwise confusing Ken Rogers with Republic's Roy Rogers.

E. M. Loew Boston Meet

BOSTON, March 9.—E. M. Loew, head of E. M. Loew Theatres, met with managers of his houses in New England this week to discuss plans for this year and for the postwar.

'In Our Time' Gets $16,000 in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, March 9.—Business in St. Louis opened strong. "In Our Time" at the Ambassador, backed by "Men on Her Mind," looked like a $16,000 week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 8:

"In Our Time" (WB)
"Men on Her Mind" (PRC)
AMBASSADOR—(3,154) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,700).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $18,900).
"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $18,700).
"Frisco Kid" (WB)
"Tornado" (Para.)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $9,900).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $7,100).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,100).
"Hara Kiri" (Film Classics)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,600. (Average: $5,200).

'Whistling' and Show Win Over Weather

MINNEAPOLIS, March 9.—"Whistling in Brooklyn," coupled with a stage show, appeared headed for $20,000 at the Orpheum Theatre despite the first really wintry weather here in four months. The weather cut grosses in all situations appreciably.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 11:

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $12,400).
"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
LYRIC—(1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,600).
"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
GOPHER—(998) (35c) 7 days. Gross: $2,400. (Average: $3,700).
"Private Life of Henry VIII" (UA reissue)
WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $2,400).
"Whistling in Brooklyn" (M-G-M)
ORPHEUM—(2,800) (45c-60c) 7 days. On stage: Glen Gray orchestra, vaudeville. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $13,900).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,400).
"Million Dollar Kid" (Mono.) 5 days
"Something About a Soldier" (Col.) 5 days
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with mid-week change. Gross: $2,600. (Average: $2,600).

'Aldrich' and Show Hit $16,100 in Omaha

OMAHA, March 9.—"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout," with Tommy Tucker and his orchestra on the stage, hit $16,100 to lead Omaha's downtown houses. Uncertain, snowy and windy weather prevailed.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 8-9:

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (40c-55c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. Average: $6,500).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"You're a Lucky Fellow, Mr. Smith" (Univ.)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Paramount. Gross: $7,400. (Average: $7,900).
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days, Tommy Tucker's orchestra on stage. Gross: $16,100. (Average: $14,900).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $8,900. (Average; $11,700).

Review

"Shine On, Harvest Moon"

(Warner Bros.)

WARNERS herewith hearken back with nostalgic yearning to that "golden era" at the turn of the century when vaudeville was not something to resurrect, but a nation's entertainment; and a popular song did not die aborning on the "Hit Parade," but led a robust existence for many a year. The happy result is "Shine On, Harvest Moon," a tuneful, costume musical as distant from this war-ridden world as those once remote Pacific isles.

Director David Butler has hewn to a simple story line—not without its elements of excitement—and has let the melodies, both old and new, do the entertaining. Producer William Jacobs has recreated the lusty flavor of the early 1900's. Dennis Morgan, as Jack Norworth, top-notch vaudeville performer and song-writer, has plucked Ann Sheridan (Nora Bayes) from her job as singer in a honky-tonk and launched her on a theatrical career as one-half of a sister act with Irene Manning. Morgan and Miss Sheridan team up after Miss Manning causes the act to split because of jealousy toward Miss Sheridan. Morgan and Miss Sheridan are an immense hit, domestically and professionally, and they come to New York to sign a contract. Morgan, meanwhile, has derived inspiration for the melody, "Shine On, Harvest Moon."

Their New York engagement never materializes, however, and additionally they are blacklisted from every theatre by Robert Shayne, Miss Sheridan's employer in her honky-tonk days who has been her evil genius ever since. Morgan descends the professional ladder when she deserts him in order not to stand in the way of his career. They are reunited in the Ziegfeld Follies, however, in a bang-up finale, which sequence is considerably enhanced by bathing the proceedings in glowing Technicolor.

Miss Sheridan, hitherto noted solely for her pulchritude, reveals another phase of her talent by carrying the main singing burden effectively. Jack Carson and Marie Wilson provide comic moments as a magician and his dense assistant; while S. Z. Sakall quivers through his role of booker. Many patrons will find the past wistfully recalled for them with lilting tunes, in addition to the title song, such as "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," "Oh, You Beautiful Doll," among others; while the younger generation will be regaled by "Time Waits for No One" by Cliff Friend and Charlie Tobias, and "I Go for You" and "So Dumb But So Beautiful," by M. K. Jerome and Kim Gannon. Screen play is by Sam Hellman, Richard Weil, Francis Swann and James Kern from an original by Weil.

One doesn't have to go very far out on the critical limb to venture the prediction that lush grosses are in store for this one.

Running time, 112 mins. "G."* Release date, April 8.

CHARLES RYWECK

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Tender Comrade' Is $7,000 Over Par

KANSAS CITY, March 9.—The Orpheum led first runs here with approximately $17,000 on "Tender Comrade," backed by "Rookies in Burma."

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 10:

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,000).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"The Racket Man" (Col.)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $14,000).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c - 60c) 7 days. Gross: $5,750. (Average: $5,600).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $1,750. (Average: $1,600).

De Havilland on Tour

Olivia De Havilland is touring Alaskan Army and Navy bases under the sponsorship of the Hollywood Victory Committee and USO Camp Shows, it has been reported here by USO headquarters.

'Lorraine,' Show Top Buffalo with $26,000

BUFFALO, March 9.—Shea's Buffalo, with "The Cross of Lorraine" and Vaughn Monroe and his orchestra on the stage, will take top honors here this week with $26,000. Runnerup will be "The Song of Bernadette," at the Great Lakes, with $20,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 11:

"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
BUFFALO — (3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Vaughn Monroe and his orchestra on stage, with Phyllis Lane, Hal Sherman, Chester Dolphin and Betty Jane Smith. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $17,400).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
GREAT LAKES — (3,000) (75c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $16,600).
"Swing Fever" (M-G-M)
"Uncensored" (20th-Fox)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,700).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Jive Junction" (PRC)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $12,200).
"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"Hi 'Ya Sailor" (Univ.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $12,400).

Weiss to Philadelphia

CHICAGO, March 9.—Mike Weiss, local exploiteer for 20th-Fox, has been transferred to the Philadelphia territory.

'Up in Arms', $41,000 in 5 Days at L. A.

LOS ANGELES, March 9.—Some improvement in the weather, plus the impact of the Academy awards and a swank opening, accounted for better grosses in some quarters here. "Song of Bernadette" hopped 35 percent at the four star-United Artists stand after Jennifer Jones won the Academy award for her role in it. "Up In Arms" got off strong at the Pantages and Hillstreet where it ran up toward a five-day mark of $41,000 against a weekly average of $36,400.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 8:

"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Rationing" (M-G-M)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $11,200).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Rationing" (M-G-M)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c - 55c - 75c - 90c) 7 days. Gross: $13,300. (Average: $15,500).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,500).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
FOUR STAR—(900) (55c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $7,570).
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
"Hot Rhythm" (Mono.)
HAWAII—(1,600) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $6,200).
"Up in Arms" (UA)
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 5 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $19,700).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Rationing" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $24,100).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $14,900).
"Up in Arms" (UA)
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
PANTAGES—(2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 5 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $16,700)...
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $11,000).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $20,300).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
"Charlie Chan in the Secret Service" (Mono.)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,700).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 11th week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $16,600).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
"Rationing" (M-G-M)
UPTOWN—(1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $16,700)
"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNERS HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,526. (Average: $17,000).
"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNERS DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-65c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,661. (Average: $18,700).
"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNERS WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,811. (Average: $15,200).

'Seabees' to Open

Republic's "The Fighting Seabees" will open at the Globe Theatre here March 18, completing key-city bookings on that production. The film opened in Omaha at the Brandeis Wednesday; at the Ohio in Cleveland yesterday; the Albany, N. Y. Palace on March 16; in Seattle at the Orpheum on March 23 and the Orpheum, Minneapolis, March 31.

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HAPPY TO ADVISE THAT THE IMPOSTOR OPENING AT THE ORPHEUM SAN FRANCISCO EXCEEDED ALL OUR EXPECTATIONS. FIRST TWO DAYS OF THIS ENGAGEMENT OUTGROSSED FLESH AND FANTASY AND HIS BUTLER'S SISTER WHICH WERE VERY BIG. OF EQ IMPORTANCE IS THE FACT THAT THE AUDIENCE REACTION AND PR COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPOSTOR WERE EXCELLENT. YOU HAVE A R HIT IN THIS PICTURE. KINDEST REGARDS=

JOE BLUMENFELD...

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
RED CROSS WEEK
MARCH 23rd thru 29th

Proof positive that "The Impostor" is on its way to box-office fame . . .

ND IT HITS THE JACKPOT!

We knew from the start that the performance of the star and supporting cast would be great . . . that the production would be grand . . . that the story was thrilling, dramatic and unusual . . . and now we know that it justifies our fondest hopes as an audience picture.



JEAN GABIN in THE IMPOSTOR

A PICTURE WITH UNIVERSAL APPEAL!

ICHARD WHORF · ALLYN JOSLYN · ELLEN DREW · PETER VAN EYCK · JOHN QUALEN · EDDIE QUILLAN · RALPH MORGAN

Original Screen Play by Julien Duvivier · Dialogue Adapted from the French by Stephen Longstreet · Additional Dialogue by Marc Connelly and Lynn Starling

Produced and Directed by JULIEN DUVIVIER

War Work Is No. 1 On M-G-M Agenda At Sales Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager of the company, has asked each delegate to bring to the meeting a record of WAC work in his territory.

Since Sept. 1, 1942, M-G-M has released 15 subjects for the WAC. Four were released in 1942 and 10 in 1943. A number are in work for release this year, first of which is "The Price of Rendova."

Details of the company's seventh block will be announced by Rodgers during the conference. Available are: "America," "Kismet" and "Bathing Beauty," all in Technicolor: "Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble," "The Canterville Ghost," "Dragon Seed," "Gaslight," "Meet the People," "Three Men in White," "Two Sisters and a Sailor" and "The White Cliffs." "Tunisian Victory," produced jointly by British and American Army units, will be among forthcoming releases.

Two changes in personnel will probably be announced by Rodgers. Since the recent resignation of John X. Quinn, St. Louis branch manager, J. F. Willingham has been substituting for him. He left a similar post in Memphis to take over the temporary assignment. L. Ingram has been acting branch manager in Willingham's place.

The three divisional sales heads: E. K. O'Shea, Eastern; T. J. Maloney, Central, and John E. Flynn, Western, will hold individual meetings, with their district and branch managers.

Review

"Hi, Good Lookin'"

(Universal)

UNIVERSAL'S "Hi, Good Lookin'" is representative of the type of modest musical that exhibitors can exploit to good advantage. Marquees are furnished names established in the radio field, and apparently on the way to comfortable berths in filmdom: Harriet Hilliard, Ozzie Nelson and his band and Jack Teagarden. Then, there's Kirby Grant, a promising newcomer, who carries his first feature role nicely, and who can sing. The production is augmented by several pleasing novelty numbers, including a clever tap routine by Tip, Tap and Toe.

Paul Gerard Smith's story is pleasant and different. Miss Hilliard, in Hollywood at the invitation of Eddie Quillan, a former school chum working as a broadcasting studio guide, who has promised to get her a break in radio, meets Grant, a celebrated singing star. He sings with her, under an assumed identity, on a local hook-up and they become the talk of the town, literally. Meanwhile, Grant, in trouble with Milburn Stone, a columnist, and in an uncomfortable spot with his sponsors, lands in jail after assaulting Stone. Miss Hilliard is asked to fill in on his program. Grant arrives at the studio, joins in her broadcast and thus reveals the identity of the owner of the mysterious voice. The sponsor is mellowed, the radio audience is happy and so are Miss Hilliard and Grant.

Featured players are given fine support by Betty Kean, Roscoe Karns, Fuzzy Knight, Robert Keane and Elizabeth Dow. Edward Lilley directed from a screenplay by Smith, Bradford Ropes and Eugene Conrad. Frank Gross produced.

Running time, 62 mins. Release date, March 24. "G."*

HELEN MCNAMARA

*"G" denotes general classification.

Witherspoon Bankrupt

Cora Witherspoon, actress, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in Federal Court here this week listing liabilities of $14,639 and no assets. The petition lists 21 creditors.



'Ali Baba' Dual Gets $9,000 in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, March 9.—"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" and "Rookies in Burma" took $9,000 at the Roger Sherman, and the show remains for a second week. At Loew's Poli, "The Lodger" and "Hoosier Holiday" took $9,500 at the College.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 9:

"Hey, Rookie" (Col.)
"Mystery of the 13th Guest" (Mono.)
BIJOU—(1,627) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,600).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
"Charlie Chan in Secret Service" (Mono.)
COLLEGE—(1,565) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,500).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"Hoosier Holiday" (Rep.)
LOEW'S POLI—(3,005) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,000).
"The Impostor" (Univ.)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,373) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $6,700. (Average: $6,400).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
ROGER SHERMAN—(2,037) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $7,000).

Senate Committee Slashes FCC Funds

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The Senate Appropriations Committee today withdrew $509,000 from House-approved funds for operation of the Federal Communications Commission during the year beginning July 1. The committee refused to approve the $209,000 increase over the current appropriation, granted by the House for the group's regular activities and cut $300,000 out of the fund for national defense operations.

As reported to the Senate, the bill carries $200,000 for the agency's regular activities, the same as provided this year, and $4,191,143 for national defense operations. In passing the bill, the House cut $1,654,000 from the budget estimate for FCC national defense activities, for which $6,146,000 was originally sought.

'Tokyo', 'Joe' Pace Cleveland Grosses

CLEVELAND, March 9.—Very bad weekend weather is reflected in business which got off to a bad start, with estimated grosses just about average. "Destination Tokyo" and "A Guy Named Joe," both holdovers, with $10,000 and $11,500, respectively, made the best showings.

Estimated receipts for the week ended March 8:

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,500).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $22,100).
"North Star" (RKO)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3d week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,200).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000).
"Hey, Rookie" (Col.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Johnny Long orchestra and vaudeville. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $25,400).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $19,000).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $1,500. (Average: $10,000).

'Frisco Kid,' Show Gross Big $20,000

MILWAUKEE, March 9.—A March blizzard failed to cut throngs at the Riverside where the 'Ink Spots', Ella Fitzgerald, and 'Cootie' Williams and his orchestra on the stage with "Frisco Kid" looks like a big $20,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 10:

"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
WISCONSIN—(3,200) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $13,000).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Hey, Rookie" (Col.)
PALACE—(2,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $9,000).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Hatcheck Honey" (Univ.)
WARNER—(2,400) (44c-65c) 7 days. Gross $16,000. (Average: $14,000).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
STRAND—(1,400) (41c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week downtown. Gross: $3,750. (Average: $4,000).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
"Whispering Footsteps" (Rep.)
ALHAMBRA—(1,900) (44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week downtown. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,000).
"Frisco Kid" (WB)
RIVERSIDE—(2,700) (44c-50c-75c) 7 days. On stage 'Ink Spots', Ella Fitzgerald and 'Cootie' Williams and his band. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $14,000).

15,111 Studio Red Cross Subscriptions

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—Studio subscriptions during the first nine days of the 1944 Red Cross War Fund drive number 15,111, chairman Frank Carothers reported here today, with 14,129 of the pledges coming from guilds and unions.

Warners head the studio list, having more funds promised on 2,665 signed subscriptions than were collected during the entire 1943 drive. M-G-M leads in number of pledges to date, 2,994. Paramount, with 2,304, occupies third place.

Carothers has averted a possible slow-down in the unions' campaign by appointing alternate "majors" and "colonels" to replace those attending contract negotiations in New York.

Army Cites Role Of 'Movies at War'

Emphasizing the key part of motion pictures in the war, the U. S. Army Signal Corps here has prepared a two-reel subject entitled "Movies At War."

The subject highlights the use of training films, made by both the industry and the Army, orientation films and footage from entertainment films shown to servicemen overseas. It is expected that the War Activities Committee will distribute it.

11 Jurors Handed Jackson Park Case

CHICAGO, March 9.—A jury of eight women and three men, one short of the usual number because of a last-minute disqualification, was given the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust case at two o'clock this afternoon and was still in session last night. If they reach a verdict before bedtime, it will be sealed and read to the court at 10 A.M. tomorrow.

Mrs. Florence Voltz Wittledeer, one of the original 12 jurors, was disqualified today when A. Patzloff, Warners' Chicago office manager, appeared to testify for the defense and recognized her as a relative of his. Vincent O'Brien, counsel for Warner Theatres and Warner Bros., arranged the disqualification, and both sides agreed to continue with the short-handed jury.

McConnell Pleads

Attorney Thomas McConnell, in his closing arguments this morning, pleaded that the plaintiff be given the right to buy film in the open market in order to preserve "the American way of business." He charged that the defendant distributors had formed an illegal price-fixing combination with Balaban and Katz on first-run and "A"-run pictures in the Loop. He claimed their purpose was to get all the millions of revenue available and that his client had been coerced into signing general-release contracts, with no product whatsoever as the alternative. He cited the fact that, while W. B. Jeffry suffered a loss, Warners' Avalon and Capitol Theatres netted $500,000 annual profit because of prior clearance.

Koff to UA Sales

PHILADELPHIA, March 9.—Melvin Koff, independent exhibitor, has joined the local United Artists exchange as film salesman, replacing Saul Krugman, who has entered the Navy. At Columbia, with Si Bell leaving for the Army, Sid Sugarman has taken over Bell's Scranton territory. Alex Cooperman, Universal booker, has left the company to move to Los Angeles. His successor has not been named as yet.

Two Join Hillman

George Quigley and John Gerstner have joined the advertising sales staff of the Hillman Women's Group of publications, which includes *Movieland*, edited in Hollywood by Ruth Waterbury.

London Honors Skouras; Pact with Rank Likely

(*Continued from page* 1)

a personal triumph for Skouras, was the largest and most representative film industry gathering to occur here since the start of the war. In addition to industry notables, numerous high ranking British, American and Greek military and diplomatic officials were present.

Among the subjects on which agreements are believed to have been reached by Skouras and Rank and on which a statement is expected to be made within the next few days, is the matter of dividends payable on Metropolis and Bradford Trust stockholdings of 20th-Fox, representing its investment in Gaumont-British.

Understanding Reached

It is also believed that the two have arrived at an understanding under which Rank's product sent to the United States will be given playing time in 20th-Fox's National Theatres. In this connection, assuming it to be correct, Rank's production facilities here may be made available to 20th-Fox as needed and the latter company may assist with physical distribution for Rank's Eagle-Lion Films in the States, if needed.

Rank presided at the luncheon and lauded Skouras in his address, as did Minister of Information Brendan Bracken; Sidney Clift, CEA president; Reginald Baker, KRS president; and Herbert Agar. Among others present were the Greek Minister to England, the Greek Archbishop of London; Lord Rothermere, press chief; Arthur Christiansen, editor of the London Daily Express, and many others.

Obviously Moved

Obviously moved, Skouras found difficulty in replying to the laudatory expressions. His response was an emotional, obviously sincere, if halting oration, stressing the screen's responsibility to portray immediately to the folks back home the experiences of their boys at the battlefront. He cited his own experience at a bomber station last Monday where he met American boys back from their bombing of Berlin in battle-scarred planes.

Skouras proposed an hour-by-hour shipment of newsreels depicting incidents such as he had witnessed to bring war's realities and its human side to wondering parents back home.

He emphasized the necessity for the world's film industries to acknowledge Rank's ideas of motion picture responsibility in world affairs.

"These young men in bombers and in the Navy and the Army," he said, are saving civilization. In the name of God, let us get together to serve them and our people. That is our responsibility."

Warns of Competition

He warned his audience of grimly competitive conditions prevailing in the industry, saying 10 major American companies already are desperately fighting each other. "But," said Skouras, "I have learned since my arrival in England that Rank is a supreme realist. I welcome him and his competition. I know that England's producers, writers and actors, and above all, the unique quality of her national history and her way of life are unsurpassable screen material."

He concluded with references to Britain's battles and efforts on behalf of Greece and the current endeavor to feed the starving there. He repeated that England is deserving of a place on the world's screens. He said he, for one, would ensure playing time for all worthwhile productions.

Gain, Galperson Confer with Rank

LONDON, March 9.—Barrington Gain and Dr. Alexander Galperson have arrived in London following extended visits in the United States on behalf of J. Arthur Rank and Two Cities Films interests. The two conferred at length with Rank tonight regarding the latter's new Eagle-Lion Films' setup in America.

W. B. Plans Other Reunions for 'Moon'

Promotions similar to the reception held Tuesday at the Murray Hill Hotel for the press and for friends of Nora Bayes, as part of Warners' exploitation program for "Shine On, Harvest Moon," will be held in other key cities, including Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

Over 300 musical comedy and vaudeville stars attended the Murray Hill affair.

Awards to UA Releases

Mexico's Film Writers Guild has cited "In Which We Serve" as "the best foreign picture exhibited in Mexico in 1943", according to a cable received here from Mexico City by Walter Gould, United Artists foreign manager. "Moon and Sixpence", "Casablanca" and "Random Harvest" ranked next.

Cited as the year's best actress was Esther Fernandez, star of the Mexican-made "Santa", which UA will release in Latin American, outside Mexico, and in Spain.

IATSE Presents 26 'General' Proposals

(*Continued from page* 1)

producers and IATSE representatives, in the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact.

Casey continued to meet with the producers' representatives until a late hour yesterday to prepare the proposals for submission to company heads at a meeting set for this morning in Casey's office. Should the company heads agree to accept any of the proposals, negotiation on each would begin at a meeting with IATSE representatives tomorrow afternoon.

IATSE representatives who are awaiting action on their general proposals to producers before submitting proposals of individual locals, met last night with Richard F. Walsh, IATSE International president. Walsh reported progress.

Benton Buys Hotel

ALBANY, N. Y., March 9.—William E. Benton and a group of Saratoga business men have purchased the Grand Union Hotel, Saratoga Springs.

MPTOA Will Decide Decree Stand March 20

(*Continued from page* 1)

committee will prepare a consolidated report which will comprise the national organization's official views on the decree proposals. This report will be presented by the committee to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark at a meeting on March 2, Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, announced yesterday. The committee's report, it was said, will present MPTOA's views on individual decree proposals, together with criticisms and suggestions for changes or additions in the distributors' draft.

The MPTOA decree procedure, it was pointed out, differs fundamentally from that of other exhibitor organizations, the bulk of which restricted their appraisal of the proposals for an amended decree to a few officials, who, without submitting the proposals to the rank-and-file exhibitors, made their reports to the Department of Justice within a matter of days.

Met on Consent Decree

The MPTOA organizations in the field, almost without exception, scheduled general membership meetings for thorough discussion of the distributors' decree proposals throughout the past month. Each organization then made its own repart on the decree proposals with its own suggestions for changes or additions. All of these reports will be correlated at the Washington meeting of the executive committee to form the decree policy of the national organization, which then will be presented to Clark.

Circuit Repair Plans To Cost $1,760,000

(*Continued from page* 1)

13 executives of leading New York circuits and represents a portion of $2,125,500 envisaged for expenditures in the amusement field in this area.

Beardsley explained that the repair-replacement funds would be used for approximately 40 circuit houses, but pointed out that a number of theatre executives could not estimate expenditures for delayed maintenance until the end of the war. The $1,760,000 sum does not represent an exact total but merely a minimum of expenditures planned by those circuits canvassed, he said. Independent theatre owners, he noted, had not yet reported on their postwar plans.

Recently, the committee submitted its report, following a two-month survey, to Mayor LaGuardia, showing that $1,300,000,000 would be spent by 1,003 private business and industrial companies in New York immediately after the war. The committee based its findings on interviews with executives of 1,774 companies.

New Haven Vandalism

NEW HAVEN, March 9.—Burning theatre screens with lit matches hurled by slingshots and cutting theatre seats regularly, vandals here have forced exhibitors to patrol audiences more strictly than ever.

Top Hit

REPUBLIC'S

Romance of the Seven Seas!

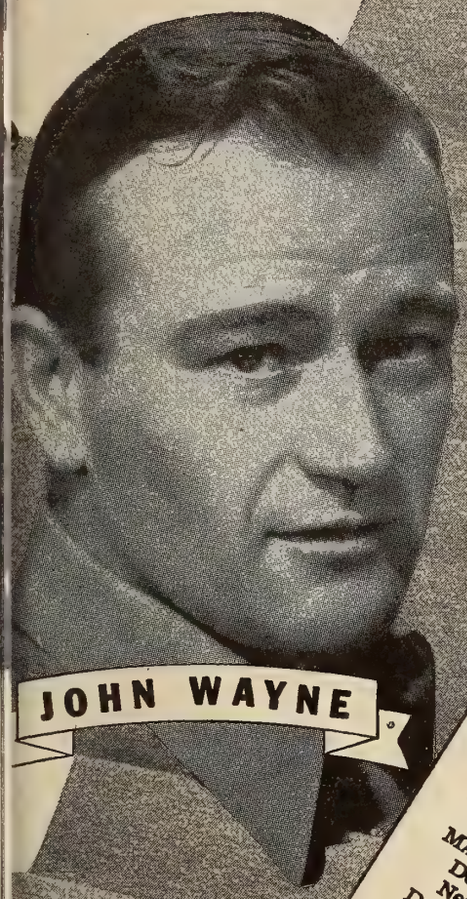
THE FIGHTING SEABEES

with DENNIS O'KEEFE and
WILLIAM FRAWLEY • LEONID KINSKEY
J. M. KERRIGAN • GRANT WITHERS

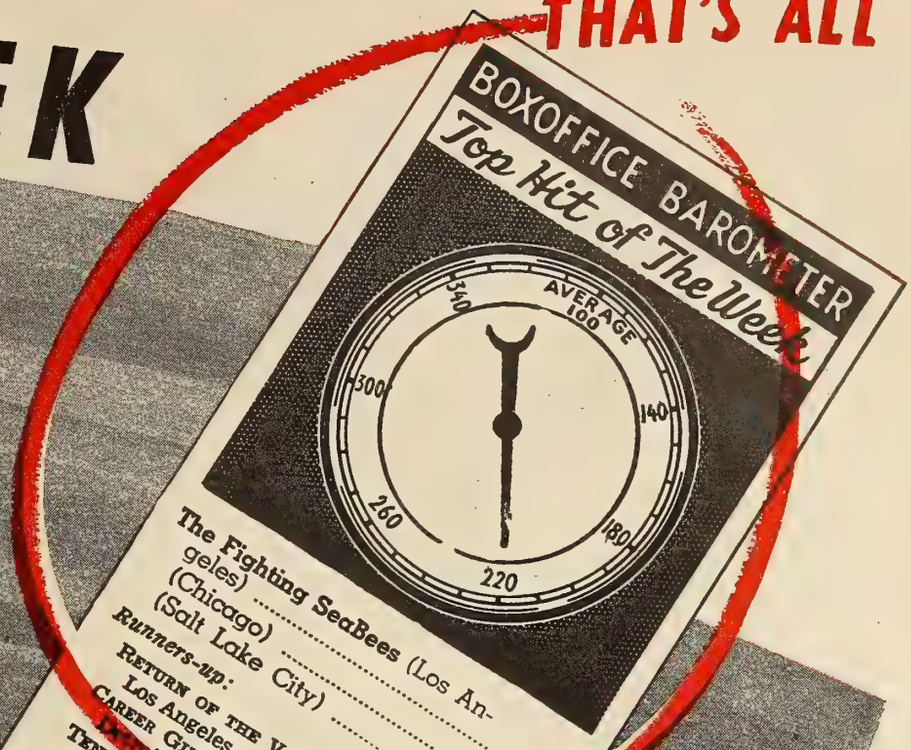
Edward Ludwig — Director
Second Unit Directed by Howard Lydecker
Screenplay by Borden Chase and Aeneas Mac Kenzie • Original Story by Borden Chase

HE WEEK

THAT'S ALL



JOHN WAYNE



The Fighting SeaBees (Los Angeles) 220
(Chicago) 150
(Salt Lake City) 150

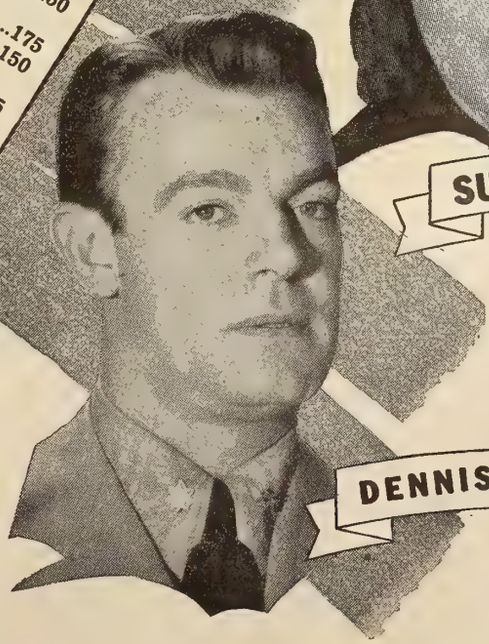
Runners-up:

RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE—
Los Angeles 210
CAREER GIRL—
Detroit 200
TENDER COMRADE—
Buffalo 200
THE GANG'S ALL HERE—
Detroit 200
FLESH AND FANTASY—
Hartford 200
NO TIME FOR LOVE—
Denver 200
Minneapolis 200
Kansas City 200
Cleveland 190
LIFEBOAT—
Hartford 190
MADAME CURIE—
Detroit 185
New Haven 175
DESTINATION TOKYO—
Denver 170
Salt Lake City 155
HIGHER AND HIGHER—
Detroit 180
Los Angeles 180
JACK LONDON—
Buffalo 150
LOST ANGEL—
Hartford 175
THE FALLEN SPARROW—
Dallas 150
THE LODGER—
Denver 175
THE SON OF DRACULA—
Denver 150
WE WILL COME BACK—
Detroit 165
WHAT A WOMAN!—
Denver 165
SHERLOCK HOLMES FACES DEATH—
Cleveland 165
THOUSANDS CHEER—
Detroit 160
BEST FOOT FORWARD—
Denver 160
HAPPY LAND—
Los Angeles 160
OLD ACQUAINTANCE—
Seattle 160
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These reports are taken from the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE.



SUSAN HAYWARD



DENNIS O'KEEFE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Feb. 12	THE GHOST THAT WALKS ALONE Arthur Lake Janice Carter D—63 mins.	(Sixth Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)	CHARLIE CHAN IN SECRET SERVICE Sidney Toler D—64 mins. (317)	(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)	MEN ON HER MIND Mary Beth Hughes Ted North C—67 mins. (409)		(Block Three) AROUND THE WORLD Kay Kyser M—80 mins. (411)	(Feb. Releases. No definite date set) JANE EYRE Joan Fontaine Orson Welles D—96 mins. (420)	THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY Lynn Bari Akim Tamiroff D	THE IMPOSTOR Jean Gabin Richard Whorf Ellen Drew D—94 mins. (8066)	THIS IS THE ARMY (Regular release) George Murphy Joan Leslie M—115 mins. (224)
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D—78 mins.	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)		CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins. (333)	THE GHOST SHIP Richard Dix D—69 mins. (412)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D—111 mins. (421)		WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D—63 mins. (8029)	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C—61 mins.	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)	SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315)	THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)			TARZAN'S DESERT MYSTERY Johnny Weismuller Nancy Kelly D—70 mins. (413)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M—(8011)	
Mar. 4		MADAME CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)	ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)	HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	FRONTIER OUTLAWS Buster Crabbe Q—(462)	THE BIG SHOW Gene Autry (reissue) O—(3302) HIDDEN VALLEY OUTLAWS Wild Bill Elliott O—56 mins. (378)	ROOKIES IN BURMA Alan Carney Wally Brown C—62 mins. (414)	(March Release. No definite date set) PURPLE HEART Dana Andrews Tala Birell D—99 mins. (422)			FRISCO KID (reissue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11	HEY ROOKIE Ann Miller Joe Besser Larry Parks C—77 mins.	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417)		TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)	LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE Lionel Atwill Jean Parker D—(414)	THE FIGHTING SEABEES John Wayne Susan Hayward D—100 mins. (311)	HIGHER AND HIGHER Frank Sinatra Michele Morgan Jack Haley M—90 mins. (415)	4 JILLS IN A JEEP Carole Landis Martha Raye Dick Haymes C—(423)	VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	HAT CHECK HONEY Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett C—(8031)	PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE Humphrey Bogart Claude Rains D—110 mins.
Mar. 18	TWO-MAN SUBMARINE Tom Neal Ann Savage J. Carroll Naish D—62 mins.	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)		FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS D (Advance Price Engagements) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—168 mins.(4338)		MOJAVE FIREBRAND Wild Bill Elliott G. "Gabby" Hayes 55 mins.—(377)	(Block Four) TENDER COMRADE Ginger Rogers Robert Ryan D—102 mins. (416)			LADIES COURAGEOUS Loretta Young Geraldine Fitzgerald Phillip Terry D—(8065)	
Mar. 25	SUNDOWN VALLEY Charles Starrett Jeanne Bates Walter "Dub" Taylor O—55 mins.	RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—93 mins. (418) A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)		(Fourth Block) GOING MY WAY Bing Crosby Rise Stevens M—130 mins. (4319) THE HITLER GANG Robert Watson Alexander Pope D—(4320)	THUNDERING GUN SLINGERS Buster Crabbe THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (English) D—(413)	MY BEST GAL Jane Withers Jimmy Lydon Frank Craven C-67 mins.	PASSPORT TO DESTINY Elsa Lanchester Gordon Oliver D—64 mins. (417)		SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Bonita Granville C	HI GOOD-LOOKIN' Harriet Hilliard Eddie Quillan Ozzie Nelson's Orchestra Jack Teagarden's Orchestra M—(8044)	
April 1	THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Gloria Stuart D	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—114 mins. (419)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	THE HOUR BEFORE THE DAWN Franchot Tone Veronica Lake D—75 mins. (4317)		THE LARAMIE TRAIL Bob Livingston "Smiley" Burnette O—56 min. (355) OUTLAWS OF SANTA FE Don "Red" Barry O—56 min. (366)	THE CURSE OF THE CAT PEOPLE Simone Simon Kent Smith D—70 mins. (418)	(April Releases. No definite date set) BUFFALO BILL (Technicolor) Maureen O'Hara Joel McCrea D—(424)	UP IN MABEL'S ROOM Gail Patrick John Hubbard C		
April 8	COVER GIRL (Technicolor) Rita Hayworth Gene Kelly Phil Silvers Jinx Falkenburg M—107 mins.	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—101 mins. (420)		YOU CAN'T RATION LOVE Betty Rhodes Johnnie Johnston C—79 mins. (4318)	GUNS OF THE LAW James Newill Tex O'Brien O	ROSIE, THE RIVETER Jane Frazee Frank Albertson Vera Vague C—75 mins. (313)	ESCAPE TO DANGER Eric Portman Ann Dvorak D—84 mins. (419)	TAMPICO Lynn Bari E. G. Robinson D—(425)		WEIRD WOMAN Lon Chaney Anne Gwynne Evelyn Ankers D	SHINE ON, HARVEST MOON Ann Sheridan Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M
April 15	JAM SESSION Ann Miller Jess Barker M	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)	LADY, LET'S DANCE Belita James Ellison Frick & Frack M—84 mins. (301)	THE NAVY WAY Robert Lowery Jean Parker D—75 mins. (4316)	THE MONSTER MAKER D—62 mins. (419)	OH SUSANNA Gene Autry (reissue) O—(3303)	ACTION IN ARABIA George Sanders Virginia Bruce D—75 mins. (420)		STRANGE CONFESSIONS Linda Darnell George Sanders D	HER PRIMITIVE MAN Louise Albritton Robert Paige D	
April 22	GIRL IN THE CASE Janice Carter Edmund Lowe—D WYOMING HURRICANE Russell Hayden—O	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	HOT RHYTHM M—79 mins. Dona Drake Robert Lowery (314)	(Special) LADY IN THE DARK (Technicolor) Ginger Rogers Ray Milland M—100 mins. (4336)	WATER FRONT J. Carroll Naish Ralph Morgan Tala Birell D—(415)	TROCADERO Rosemary Lane Johnny Downs Bob Chester's Orch. M—(314)	UP IN ARMS (special release) Danny Kaye Dinah Shore C—105 mins. (Technicolor)			MOON OVER LAS VEGAS Ann Gwynne David Bruce D	UNCERTAIN GLORY Errol Flynn Paul Lukas D

DO NOT REMOVE

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

VOL. 55. NO. 50 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1944 | TEN CENTS

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

WAC Antidote For Overseas Film Jibes

Troops, Public to Hear Of Industry Efforts

The War Activities Committee and the industry's West Coast Public Information Bureau have devised a program for acquainting the public here and our service men in all theatres of the war with the industry's contributions of free film entertainment for service men at home and overseas, and to preclude further criticism about allegedly out-of-date product being shown to our fighters abroad.

The program was requested by U. S. Army Overseas Motion Picture Service, which holds that "it is vitally important that the families of service men be kept properly informed of what is being done in this connection for their boys scattered over the face of the earth."

It will be pointed out that the in-

(*Continued on page* 11)

O'Connor, Sanford Again Head Drive

John J. O'Connor of Universal Pictures has been named chairman of the motion picture division of the special gifts committee of the Archbishop's committee of the Laity for the 1944 Appeal of New York Catholic Charities, it was announced here yesterday by John A. Coleman, executive chairman of the committee.



John J. O'Connor

Serving with O'Connor is Bert Sanford of Altec Service as vice-chairman. Additional members for this division

(*Continued on page* 11)

Jewish Relief 'Show Of Shows' Tonight

Scores of stars of stage, screen, radio and concert will turn out tonight for the "Show of Shows," sponsored by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, at Madison Square Garden.

$360,000 Awarded In Jackson Park Suit; Appeal Likely

CHICAGO, March 12.—Motions for a new trial were under consideration at the weekend by defense lawyers in the Jackson Park Theatre case here, after hearing a verdict of guilty, awarding $360,000 triple damages, read by Federal Judge Michael Igoe.

Defendants are Paramount, Balaban and Katz, Warner Brothers Pictures, Warner Brothers Theatres, RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox and Loew's, Inc.

The jury deliberated from 2:15 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. Thursday. Judge Igoe ordered judgment at once, but gave the defendants 10 days in which to file motions for a new trial. If such

(*Continued on page* 10)

Defer Talks on 10 'IA' Proposals

Negotiations between producers and representatives of the IATSE studio craft locals continued here at the weekend in the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, with arguments now centering around 16 general proposals for a new contract to replace the two-year agreements which expired on Jan. 1. Discussion on ten additional proposals has been deferred until the problems of individual locals are considered at future sessions. The next session between IATSE repre-

(*Continued on page* 11)

Can't Beat Tax by Buying Tickets Now

Theatre patrons cannot escape the increased admission tax which goes into effect April 1 by purchasing tickets now for shows after that date, according to industry tax experts. Advance ticket sales for regular, reserved-seat or any other type of theatre performances in motion-picture, legitimate or any other type of houses, are subject to the new Federal tax of one cent on each five cents.

Theatre Circuits 100% Pledged to Red Cross Drive

Every theatre circuit in the country is now 100 per cent pledged to participate in the 1944 Red Cross War Fund Drive, March 23-29, sponsored by the War Activities Committee's motion picture theatre division, it was announced here at the weekend by Joseph Bernhard, national chairman for the industry's campaign. A total of 11,300 pledges has been received from 135 independent circuits and from the Paramount, Warner, Fox West Coast, RKO and Loew circuits.

At the same time word was received here from Harry Arthur, Jr., in St.

(*Continued on page* 11)

Workers Get $400,000 to Do Nothing, Says 'Press'

CLEVELAND, March 12.—The Cleveland *Press* charged in a series of articles in the past few days that unions here are compelling exhibitors and eventually the public to pay some $400,000 annually to stagehands who are allegedly not needed.

The *Press*, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, frequent attacker of motion picture unions, charges that "many stageless movie houses must now employ stagehands at more than $2 an hour and all movie houses, large and small, must hire a second projection booth operator to keep the first operator company—at about $3 an hour."

"Thus," continues the newspaper, "in the midst of a war manpower shortage, Cleveland has a group of men who don't have to take war plant jobs because they can make more doing nothing in a non-war industry.

"In the last decade," the newspaper

(*Continued on page* 11)

Lippert Asks Million In Coast Trust Suit

SAN FRANCISCO, March 12.—Robert L. Lippert Theatres, operating 21 houses, has filed suit in Federal District Court here for $1,050,000 in triple damages against 20th Century-Fox-National Theatres and 19 other distributor-producer defendants, all of whom are charged with monopolistic practices. An injunction is asked.

Lippert's complaint states that it has operated the Grand Theatre in Richmond, Calif., since 1941, and that defendant companies have combined to "freeze-out" the Grand or force the owners to sell to 20th-Fox-National. Four other houses in Richmond are owned or controlled by the latter, or subsidiaries, the complaint alleges. Lippert also owns four other theatres in Richmond.

Labor Draft EndangersRaw Stock Release

Factories Threatened by Loss of Workers

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Plans of Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the WPB motion picture section, to soon loosen raw stock curtailments and to abandon them as soon as the European situation clears are seen endangered by manpower problems arising out of the new Selective Service policy of drafting pre-Pearl Harbor fathers and skeletonizing occupational deferments, it was learned tonight.

For some time, Harold Hopper and Burrows, who jointly ran the section until the former resigned as its chief last month, have been hoping to drop the allocation in the third or fourth quarter of this year, the shortage of raw materials and equipment which early in the war necessitated the imposition of restrictions on the use of film having been cleared up, while

(*Continued on page* 10)

Rodgers Sees WAC Vital in Post-War

CHICAGO, March 12.—There will be no need for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to alter its policy for peace-time operations, said William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager of Loew's, in urging the company's branch and district managers here to even greater effort in the industry's war activities.

Opening the five-day business conference now being held at the Blackstone Hotel, Rodgers stated, "It will be unnecessary for us to convert from

(*Continued on page* 10)

PCCITO Approves New Tax Council

LOS ANGELES, March 12.—Formal approval and active support of the industrywide exhibitor council on taxation has been voted by the trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatres, representing hundreds of exhibitors on the West Coast. L. W. Bruen was named by the trustees to represent the PCCITO on the council.

(It was learned in New York over the weekend that exhibitor leader sponsors of the new tax council will be ready within a few weeks for establishing a formal organization).

Personal Mention

SAMUEL COHEN, United Artists foreign publicity director, marks has 25th anniversary in the industry today.

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ED. FREYBERGER, DICK TRETLER, MONROE SCHRAM, EDDIE CLINE and BEN TAURITZ, winners of the Century Circuit quota drive, were the guests of FRED SCHWARTZ at his Lake Placid home over the weekend.

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SOL A. SCHWARTZ, RKO Western zone manager, and BILL HOWARD, head of the vaudeville booking department, left Friday for San Francisco and Los Angeles.

•

PVT. FRANK G. LOWENSTEIN, son of HARRY LOWENSTEIN, president of Allied of New Jersey, is home on a nine-day furlough from Camp Wolters, Texas.

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CORP. WERNER KATZ, a former usher at Loew's 83rd St., was killed in action in the North Burma campaign, the family has been notified by the War Department.

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LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, and SAM DEMBOW, theatre department executive, have returned from Minneapolis.

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HERMAN STARR, Warner vice-president in charge of music publishing interests, is en route to the Coast with MORT BLUMENSTOCK and SAM SCHNEIDER for studio conferences.

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TOM J. CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of distribution, will return from Miami on March 22.

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J. J. UNGER, United Artists Western division manager, left over the weekend on a three weeks' business trip.

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JAMES MURPHY, assistant executive director of the industry arbitration system, left over the weekend for Oklahoma City.

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MAURICE BERGMAN, Universal Eastern advertising-publicity manager, left at the weekend for a brief vacation in Florida.

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DAVID BERNSTEIN, Loew's vice-president and treasurer, is expected back from Florida today or tomorrow.

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COLONEL HAL ROACH and MRS. ROACH were in town over the weekend.

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RAFAEL G. MARTI, president of Tropico Films, Inc., San Juan, Porto Rico, is in New York.

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NED E. DEPINET, RKO-Radio president, arrived in New York from the Coast at the weekend.

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LOUIS B. MAYER left for the Coast Saturday.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE M-G-M production, "The White Cliffs," trade shown last week, is one more item of proof in Hollywood's library of evidence that it can make a British picture better than Britain can make one, at least insofar as the American market, in which the British are evincing such a keen interest just now, is concerned.

It is not only a fine production for all audiences, but it steps out of the cinematic groove long enough to make itself a potent international mediator, an advocate of better understanding between the two great nations, America and Britain. In so doing, it contributes something that the British film industry has never even attempted, perhaps because that industry's producers have been too busy trumping up complaints and charges that their cinematic offerings have been kept from the American public through the machinations of what they please to term "a conspiracy of a few leaders of the American industry."

• •

In this corner, we cannot conceive of a conspiracy potent enough to keep a picture such as "The White Cliffs," or many other pictures treating with British themes, from the American public, had they been made in England rather than Hollywood. The American public would take care of that in its own effective way—at the box office.

The charges of the British industry with respect to the fate of its product in this market will remain wholly meaningless so long as pictures like "The White Cliffs" are made in Hollywood and not in England.

Once we heard a Londoner remark: "Give us back our Greer Garsons and we, too, can make a 'Mrs. Miniver.'"

In "The White Cliffs," M-G-M demonstrates that it can make a better British picture than the British can without calling upon Greer Garson.

• •

We are reminded of a story that was being told and repeated around New York by emissaries of a branch of the British government recently. It was their contention that a well known British war film was being neglected in this market by the company entrusted with its distribution because a producer affiliated with the company was identified with an American war picture which another company was distributing here. The neglect of the British picture, it was said, was deliberate because the company did not want it to get the comparable number of playdates which the American picture would receive and, thereby, embarrass its associated producer. It was not conceded by those making the charge that an American war picture was of more interest to the American public than a British one.

We listened to the story repeated over a period of months and then ascertained the number of playdates obtained for each picture by the two American distributors involved. While the American picture had received the greater number of playdates, the difference in number was too slight to support the charge being made. The next time we heard the story repeated we quoted the figures to the British official who conceded their accuracy. But rather than retract his charge, he stated that the showing on the British picture had been made tardily and was due in large measure to the "rescue" efforts in special publicity and promotion which were undertaken, he said, by his office without the cooperation of the American distributor of the British documentary. That assertion can be disputed easily. What is significant is that the story and the charge couched within it died a natural death thereafter.

• •

However, the British film industry, by its public charges and complaints against the American industry, and the expressions of active sympathy and interest of the British government in its film industry, has done more to help our industry to gain the serious attention and perhaps, the future assistance of our own government, than any other factor. In past years, Washington was not particularly interested in the industry's problems. But when the British industry and government, hand in hand, began world market exploration (if only verbally) our State Department began to sit up and take notice. If it listens long enough, it may learn what other governments have known about their film industries for long.

It would appear that our State Department was unable to regard the motion picture as a serious international force until the clamor out of London called its attention to British government policy on films.

George Smith Sees Coast Theatre Boom

George A. Smith, Paramount Western division manager, returning here at the weekend from a month's swing through his territory, reported at the weekend that he found grosses there substantially higher than six months ago and, further, that Coast exhibitors foresee a problem in handling th crowds they expect when a further business boom develops in the area soon after the defeat of Germany.

Exhibitors told Smith, he said, that six months ago their attendance was off because rural communities had been drained of manpower and that those who remained were in no mood to attend pictures principally because their families were broken up. Now, however, according to Smith, all situations are doing good business.

The feeling that a boom is on the way, Smith explained, is based on the fact that after the final stage of the European conflict there will be a heavy concentration of war activity on the Pacific front. It is also anticipated that many of the new industries established during the war will remain afterwards and that many who are attracted by the new employment will become permanent residents.

Lazarus, Jr., To Be Inducted This Month

Paul Lazarus, Jr., United Artists' advertising and publicity director, will report for induction about March 23. Appointment of a successor is expected to be made following conferences by Edward C. Raftery, U. A, president; Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president, and other company officials on the Coast. Raftery and Sears are scheduled to arrive in Hollywood today for visits of several weeks on general company business.

Lazarus joined Warners' home office advertising department in 1933, was associated with advertising agencies starting in 1936, and joined United Artists last year. He is married and the father of two children.

McNerney Aids Kelly On Eagle-Lion Sales

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—D. J. McNerney, former United Artists exchangeman, is advising his long standing friend Arthur W. Kelly on the Coast sales set-up for Eagle-Lion Films. McNerney, however, will not become identified with the new company, intending to continue his theatre business in partnership with Joe Blumenfeld of San Francisco. Kelly will return to the East next week.

Six Reissued in Ohio

CLEVELAND, March 12. — Imperial Pictures, operated by Max M. Jacobs, has closed a deal with Daniel Frankel for Northern Ohio distribution of "The Scarlet Pimpernel," "The Ghost Goes West," "Elephant Boy," "The Private ife of Henry VIII" and "Catherine the Great," all of London Films-United Artists, and "Four Feathers," Korda-United Artists production.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address. "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

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AT EVERY PERFORMANCE

FROM MARCH 23RD TO 29TH THIS COUNTRY'S MOTION PICTURE EXHIBITORS HAVE PLEDGED THEIR AMERICAN WORD TO

COLLECT FOR THE RED CROSS

THEY DON'T FAIL US. WE WON'T FAIL THEM.

COLLECT AT EVERY ✚ PERFORMANCE
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WAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

THE TIMELIEST

YEAR

THE PURPLE HEART

A DARRYL F. ZANUCK PRODUCTION · Directed by LEWIS MILESTO

They never saw anything like the picture!

You never saw anything like the business!

. . . when all box-office figures are topped, the biggest fig

CTURE OF THE IS THE YEAR'S RECORD-SMASHER!



...IN DENVER!...IN DETROIT!...IN BUFFALO!

...IN MIAMI!...IN SPRINGFIELD!...IN NEW HAVEN!

...IN BOSTON!...IN PITTSBURGH!..AT THE ROXY, N. Y. C.!

...and watch it everywhere!

the industry does it— 20th CENTURY-FOX

'Bernadette' Raises $9,200 Over Par In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, March 12.—"Song of Bernadette" at advanced prices will take $38,800 in its first week at the Paramount. Business is generally good, with "Fighting Seabees" and "My Best Gal" grossing $28,300 at the Fox and "Up in Arms," with the Merry Macs on the stage, hitting $27,500 at the Golden Gate.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 6-8:

"Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $9,800. (Average: $11,000).

"The Impostor" (Univ.)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $14,800).

"Bad Men of Missouri" (WB)
WARFIELD—(2,680) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $22,800. (Average: $21,800).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
STATE—(2,306) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 4th week, moveover from Paramount. Gross: $13,900. (Average: $12,100).

"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"My Best Gal" (Rep.)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $28,300. (Average: $24,000).

"Up in Arms" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $27,500. (Average: $25,000).

"Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
PARAMOUNT—(2,740) (75c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $38,800. (Average: $19,600).

"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Fox. Gross: $11,600. (Average: $11,600).

New Freon Factory, But No New Freon

WASHINGTON, March 12. — Construction of a freon-manufacturing plant with a capacity of 2,000,000 pounds a month is under way in East Chicago, Ind., for Kinetic Chemicals, Inc., jointly owned by DuPont and General Motors, it was reported to Washington at the weekend. It was also disclosed that a new plant at Deepwater Point, N. J., is nearing completion and that the original plant at that point has been increased in output. But there still will be no freon for theatre refrigeration this summer.

Within the next few months, it is expected that the production of freon will be well over double the pre-war output, but War Production Board officials see no chance for release of any of the refrigerant to exhibitors.

It was explained that freon is not only used as a refrigerant on Naval and Merchant Marine vessels but is in heavy demand by the Army and Navy for use as an insecticide.

New RKO Union Hearing Tomorrow

A New York State Labor Relations Board hearing on the petition of the newly formed Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers, Assistants and Cashiers Guild to be designated the collective bargaining agent for all metropolitan RKO managers, assistants and cashiers, has been postponed from today until tomorrow.

The union is independent without either AFL or CIO affiliation.

Review

"Outlaws of Santa Fe"

(Republic)

Hollywood, March 12

PRODUCER Eddie White and director Howard Bretherton have contrived a formula Western, with a pace somewhat slower than average. There is scarcely enough hard riding and fast shooting to compensate for the dull story.

Don (Red) Barry plays the part of an outlaw who goes straight when he discovers that his real father was a U. S. Marshal who died in line of duty. Barry and Wally Vernon, who adds some needed comedy touches, round up a gang of cattle rustlers. Their mission accomplished, the two cowboys give themselves up to the law and face charges arising out of their former misdeeds. Helen Talbot supplies the romantic interest and "Twinkle" Watts is adequate as the child who helps foil the cattle-thieves. The original story was by Norman S. Hall.

Running time, 54 minutes. "G."* Release date March 2.

THALIA BELL

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Negotiations on Decree This Month

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Consent decree negotiations, quiescent for the past several weeks, are expected to be revived late this month. Views of the MPTOA on the distributors' proposals, the last to respond of the several organizations from which comment was invited, are expected to reach Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark within the next 10 days.

It was indicated by Clark some days ago that no further steps toward securing better terms from the distributors would be taken until all of the associations had submitted their criticism and recommendations of the decree draft submitted by the companies on Jan. 25.

Weis Case Opens Today in Atlanta

ATLANTA, March 12.—The $218,000 damage suit filed by Fred Weis, operator of the Savannah Theatre, Savannah, Ga., against Lucas and Jenkins and the eight major companies, originally scheduled to start last Monday, is scheduled to start here tomorrow.

Louis Phillips, Paramount attorney, and Howard Levinson, Warner lawyer, will conduct the defense for their respective companies. Weis, in his complaint, alleged unfair practices by Lucas and Jenkins, which made it necessary for him to abandon construction of a theatre in Savannah.

Irvin S. Cobb, 67, Dies at Home Here

Irvin S. Cobb, 67, writer, whose "Judge Priest" stories launched him in screen acting when they were filmed in 1936, died on Friday at his home in the Hotel Sheraton here after a long illness. Cobb appeared in "Steamboat Round the Bend," Will Rogers' last picture, and later helped promote field premieres for many films, the last of which was "Cheers for Miss Bishop" in 1941, for Richard Rowland.

Wile, Blaufox on Drive

Robert Wile, Universal trade press contact, and Jay Blaufox, publicist and writer, are assisting Charles Smakwitz here on publicity for the industry's participation in the Red Cross Drive.

Shipp, Thomas Join Vanguard Publicity

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—Following appointment of Don King, assistant Columbia studio publicity chief, as director of publicity for Vanguard Films and David O. Selznick, two additions have been made to the Selznick publicity staff. Cameron Shipp, assistant publicity director for Warners, will become publicity director for Vanguard, working under King. George Thomas, Jr., moves over from Universal.

John Harkins shifts to New York as Eastern publicity director. The present Vanguard staff is being retained, including Hy Daab, Dee Lowrance, Harry Mines and Joe Polonsky.

Lou Smith at MGM on Special Assignments

Lou Smith, formerly Eastern publicity director for M-G-M, has been engaged to handle special promotions for that company, Howard Dietz, vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, announced here at the weekend.

Smith, who will have headquarters on the Coast, has been assigned "The White Cliffs" as his initial promotion.

Peskay Tells of Vain Attempts to Buy Film

NEW HAVEN, March 12.—E. J. Peskay, testifying here at the weekend for the fourth day in the anti-trust suit brought by the Fairfield Holding Corp. and others, told of vain efforts to book product in 1939 and '40 for the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich.

He said that A. Montague, Columbia general sales manager, refused $2,500 for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"; that Thomas J. Connors and William F. Rodgers, M-G-M sales executives, blocked deals on "Gone With the Wind" until after it had played the smaller towns in his vicinity, and that Vitagraph was not interested in a split-product bid he made. Cross-examination of Peskay is expected to begin Wednesday.

Dr. Frieder Services

Funeral services for Dr. William Frieder, 60, for 25 years physician for the Lambs Club for actors here, and long associated with the Actors Fund, will be held at 2 P.M. today at the Little Church Around the Corner.

Monogram Budget to Exceed $7,500,000

LOS ANGELES, March 12.—A three-day Monogram West Coast regional sales meeting was concluded here yesterday at the Chapman Park Hotel, during which sales plans for the company's 1944-45 product were outlined by executives. Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager, presided at the sessions, which concluded regional sales meetings throughout the U. S. which served to launch Monogram's national sales drive under the slogan, "Fifty Years of Service."

Budget Expanded

Broidy said the 1944-'45 budget has been expanded to over $7,500,000 on the strength of the success of recent high-cost pictures. He reported the addition of 1,700 new accounts since the start of the 1943-'44 season, bringing the total to 8,700, and anticipated reaching 10,000 with the current year. Plans to spend approximately $500,000 advertising "Lady Let's Dance" and "Johnny Doesn't Live Here Anymore" were also outlined by Broidy.

Among those who participated were Trem Carr, executive director of the studio; George D. Burrows, vice-president and treasurer; Albert F. Martin, comptroller; Louis S. Lifton, advertising-publicity director; Howard Stubbins, head of the company's exchanges in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, and Mel Hulling, his assistant, with headquarters in San Francisco.

20 of 28 Finished

Carr announced that the studio had finished 20 of its 28 features for the entire year by Feb. 15, exclusive of Westerns.

Also on hand were Gordon Allen, Howard Butler and Clint Mecham, San Francisco; Walter Wessling and Howard Mapes, Portland; Ralph Abbett and Archie Holt, Seattle, and Martin McCarthy, Doug Forey, Henry Balk and Jim Schiller, Los Angeles. Producers attending were: Scott R. Dunlap, Lindsley Parsons, Sam Katzman, Jack Dietz, Jeffrey Bernard, Philip N. Krasne, James S. Burkett and Henry Sokal, whose new acquisition as a Monogram producer was disclosed at the meeting.

Farewells Here for Wilbert and Mersay

Harry A. Mersay, head of 20th Century-Fox's news and print department, and Christy Wilbert, press book editor, were given farewell parties Friday prior to their leaving for the armed forces.

Mersay, who enters the Army Wednesday, was honored at a luncheon at the Castleholm Restaurant, attended by 70 co-workers. Wilbert, who leaves for the Navy March 20, was guest at a dinner at the Famous Kitchen, at which the entire publicity, advertising and exploitation departments were represented.

Stewart Gets Medal

Major James Stewart, film actor, has received the air medal for five combat missions, according to a press dispatch from a U. S. bomber base in England.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 12

ALTHOUGH April will see four new pictures before the cameras at Paramount, there is every indication that the studio will have a very light production year. Placing dependence for sufficient releases upon a backlog of 25 pictures, many of them of topflight calibre, the studio plans to produce only 18 features, all of them high budget films, while William Pine and William Thomas will turn out six for Paramount release for an approximate overall total of 24 or 25. The four scheduled for April are: Mark Sandrich's Technicolor musical, "The Waves," starring Bing Crosby, Betty Hutton and Sonny Tufts; Seton I. Miller's "Two Years Before the Mast," Joseph Sistrom's "Girls Town" and John Houseman's "Fear," starring Gail Russell.

•

Universal has five on the stages at this writing and will put four more in work during the month. The new ones are: "Murder in the Blue Room" with Grace McDonald, "Dead Man's Eyes" of the Inner Sanctum series, "Song of the Hills" and an untitled Gloria Jean film. Those in work are: "The Climax," "Jungle Woman," "The Ghost Catchers," "South of Dixie" and the serial, "The Great Alaskan Mystery."

•

RKO-Radio stages saw renewed activity with four pictures going before the cameras during the past week. They are "None But the Lonely Heart," with Clifford Odets directing Cary Grant and Ethel Barrymore; "Show Business," back in work for added scenes; Frank Sinatra in "Manhattan Serenade" and Fibber McGee and Molly in "Heavenly Days." . . . Lewis Allen will direct "Fear," starring Gail Russell, which starts work shortly at Paramount.

•

It took the Academy 16 years to get around to staging its annual presentation of awards in a theatre where some of the public could be admitted. It was the best annual Academy event ever held. Everything went exceedingly well with packed bleachers at the entrance attesting to public interest and there was no confusion in the handling of the press, for which Arch Reeve, Hal Hall and others in charge of publicity deserve a special award.

Perhaps the success of this venture, forced upon Academy leaders by wartime shortages precluding the usual dinner affair, will have even greater results. Some ask: Why not an annual event in a huge auditorium where thousands of the public could be admitted and the funds go to some especially worthwhile benefit—the Motion Picture Relief Fund, for example?

•

Mitchell Leisen, currently directing Claudette Colbert and Fred McMurray in Paramount's "Practically Yours," will also direct "Kitty," romance of London 300 years ago with Paulette Goddard and Ray Milland costarred. . . . Quick to take advantage of the Academy award to Katina Paxinou for her work in "For Whom the Bell Tolls," B. G. DeSylva has cast the Greek actress in a co-starring role with Betty Hutton in "California," Technicolor musical.

Off the Antenna

THE role of television in helping to provide employment and in boosting the nation's purchasing power after the war through a demonstration of new television advertising techniques will highlight an address by Thomas F. Joyce, manager of RCA Victor's radio, phonograph and television division at a special "Television Day" program of the Sales Executives Club in New York tomorrow. Professional talent and dramatizations will be presented to visualize the effectiveness of television commercials.

CBS's report on its 1943 program-promotion campaign, in which 128 CBS "station cities" participated, discloses that total broadcasts of "live" and recorded announcements numbered 47,045; newspaper insertions in the "station cities" reached an average daily circulation of over 19,000,000; posters, car cards and other promotions were also used in the campaign. . . . Preparing to cover the forthcoming invasion of Europe and the political broadcasts at home, William F. Brooks, NBC director of news and special events, has shifted Francis M. McCall, manager of operations, to assist Stanley Richardson, London manager; has appointed Adolph Schneider, NBC news editor, as acting manager of operations in McCall's absence; and has designated Ann Gillis, former CBS news and special events representative in Washington, as his assistant. W. W. Chaplin has been assigned to London and David Anderson, NBC Stockholm representative, is also heading for London. . . . The latest Hooper Survey places Bob Hope first, Fibber McGee and Molly, second, and the Aldrich Family, third.

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Purely Personal:—*Merritt R. Schoenfeld, formerly network sales manager of the Blue's Central division, has been appointed assistant general manager of that division. E. K. Hartenbower of the Central division's sales staff, will succeed Schoenfeld as division sales manager, and Gilbert R. Berry, sales manager of WENR, Chicago, will take over as assistant division sales manager. . . . B. E. Powers has been appointed to assist Jack Donohue, Blue's district sales manager, with offices in Detroit. . . . Bob Emery, conductor of WOR's "Rainbow House," will produce and direct WOR's experimental television series on DuMont's W2XWV starting tomorrow. . . . Lt. Tom Braden, former WOR publicist, who has been with the British Eighth Army, is a New York visitor.*

• • •

Program Notes:—"Stop or Go," starring Joe E. Brown, said to be a new type of quiz program, will make its debut on the Blue Network on March 23 as a weekly series. . . . The 55th Street Playhouse and the Park Theatre here have signed a 13-week contract with WQXR in New York for three-time weekly announcements. . . . Frank Sinatra's CBS show will originate from New York for seven weeks starting March 22.

National Anticipates Boom of Drive-Ins

National Theatre Supply anticipates greatly increased drive-in theatre business in the postwar, according to W. E. Green, NTS president, who has announced that L. H. Walters, manager of the company's Cleveland office, will head a new drive-in theatre department.

Walters, who has been in the theatre equipment field for 34 years, will act as consultant to exhibitors planning postwar drive-ins.

30 Goldwyn Reissues Bought for Chile

Thirty Samuel Goldwyn films, ranging from "Bulldog Drummond" to "The Westerner," have been sold to Arditi and Corry for reissue in Chile, it was announced by the producer's office here at the weekend. Early last month a similar deal was completed for Argentina. Henry R. Arias was agent in both negotiations.

Zehrung Joins Gutlohn

George J. Zehrung, director of the industrial department of the YMCA motion picture bureau here, has become consultant on films for Walter O. Gutlohn, Inc., here. Zehrung has been a member of the executive committee of the National Board of Review and the OWI and CIAA Film Distribution Committee of 17. In his new capacity he will control a 3,000-subject library.

20th Club Elections

The 20th Century-Fox-Family Club will hold its annual election meeting on March 15 at the home office.

M-G-M Appoints Its 6th Woman Manager

The M-G-M home office yesterday reported the appointment of its sixth woman office manager in the field. She is Miss Lila Goodin, who has been employed in the San Francisco exchange for many years.

Other women managers include Mrs. Amy Sinclair, Kansas City; Miss M. M. Ryan, Buffalo; Mrs. Blanche Carr, Charlotte; Mrs. E. E. Mitchell, Memphis, and Mrs. Hazel Anderson, Omaha.

Marlowe in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, March 12.—June Marlowe, Hollywood player, will play a lead in the Mexican film, "El Cosario Negro" ("The Black Corsair"), which Clasa Films will produce with Mauricio de la Serna directing. Miss Marlowe becomes the second American player to recently enter the industry here, Sally Blane preceding her.

Carrier Rates Boosted

LINCOLN, Neb., March 12.—The state railway commission has approved boosts in rates for Nebraska film carriers from 15 to 20 cents per mile and from 50 to 75 cents for each shipment transported from theatre to depot or postoffice in the same town.

'FWBT' In Mexico City

The Latin-American premiere of "For Whom the Bell Tolls" will be staged by Paramount in Mexico City on May 5. Arturo de Cordova, appearing in the film, will make a personal appearance.

'Bernadette' Doubles Par In Chicago

CHICAGO, March 12.—"The Song of Bernadette" grossed $63,000 in the first week of its Midwest premiere at the State-Lake. Strong opening of "Jane Eyre" on Saturday at the United Artists indicated that it will hit $32,000 for the week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 11:

"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
"Minesweeper" (Para.) 2 days, 2nd week
"Rationing" (M-G-M) and "Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.) 5 days
APOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $11,400).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
CHICAGO—(3,850) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Lou Breese and band. Gross: $52,000. (Average: $51,500).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $9,100).
"Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO)
"The Sultan's Daughter" (Mono.)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,100).
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days. Stage: Bob Chester and Band. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
PALACE—(2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Desert Song" (WB)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $20,400).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
STATE-LAKE—(2,700) (50c-65c-75c-85c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $63,000. (Average: $29,000).
"Girl Crazy" (M-G-M) 6 days, 3rd week
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox) 1 day
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $20,200).
"Crime School" (WB)
"Girls on Probation" (WB)
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000).

'Miracle' Gross Is $403,264 at 31 Runs

Paramount reported at the weekend that "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" grossed $403,264 in 31 situations for which figures are available.

Total compared with grosses at the same theatres and same playing time on the following pictures: "China," $362,984; "Let's Face It," $375,802, and "The Road to Morocco," $420,003, the latter, however, including 26 holiday engagements.

Ad Lineage Cut 20% By Bridgeport Papers

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., March 12.—The Bridgeport *Post* and *Telegram*, morning and evening papers, will cut theatre advertising lineage 20 percent under the amount used last March. This is in addition to the elimination of Saturday afternoon and Monday morning advertising, in effect for several months. National advertising is not affected.

Nizer Air Interview

Louis Nizer, film attorney and author of the recently published book "What to Do With Germany" will be interviewed on Kathryn Cravens' "News Through a Woman's Eyes" program on New York radio station WNEW on Wednesday.

The Critics And The Crowds Agree

It's KAYE

Laughing room only at the Music Hall



"A tuneful and lavish musical . . . Danny Kaye belongs in the ranks of the great comic specialists of our day."

—Kate Cameron
N. Y. Daily News

"Danny Kaye is terrific and so is 'Up In Arms'. . . Good music, great comedy and glamour babes packaged in a brilliant production which will be up in big dough."

—Frank Quinn
N. Y. Daily Mirror

"Danny Kaye is superbly funny . . . Samuel Goldwyn has shot the works in 'Up In Arms.'"

—Howard Barnes
N. Y. Herald-Tribune

"Mr. Goldwyn has put aboard his troopship some army nurses that would make malaria a rare privilege . . . the femininity fairly tempts low howls . . . Hey, what else do we want with Danny Kaye! . . ."

—Bosley Crowther
N. Y. Times

"Ladies and gentlemen—Take a firm grip on yourself and the nearest bit of furniture screwed to the floor . . . Introducing Danny Kaye! . . . In this, his first picture, he shoots the works."

—Archer Winsten
N. Y. Post

LOSSAL!

SAMUEL GOLDWYN'S

UP IN ARMS

IN TECHNICOLOR

with

DANNY KAYE

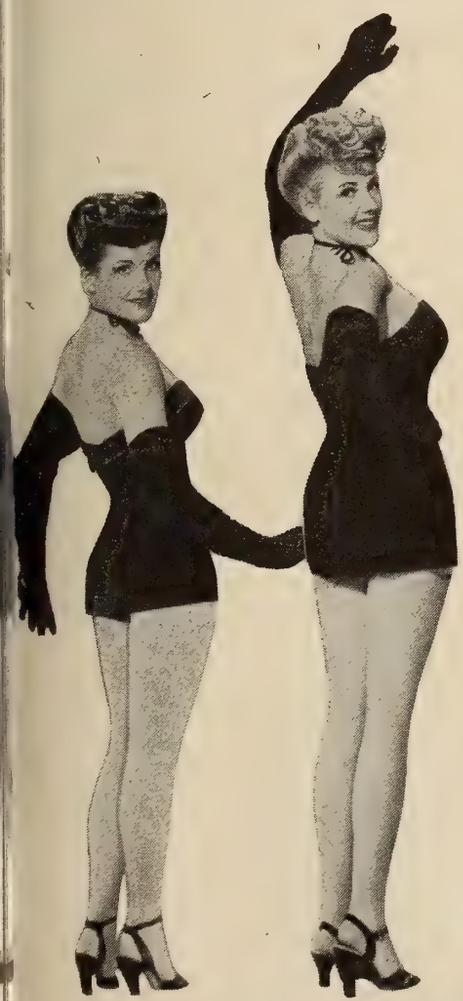
DINAH SHORE · DANA ANDREWS
CONSTANCE DOWLING
and the gorgeous GOLDWYN GIRLS

Associate Producer DON HARTMAN · Directed by ELLIOTT NUGENT

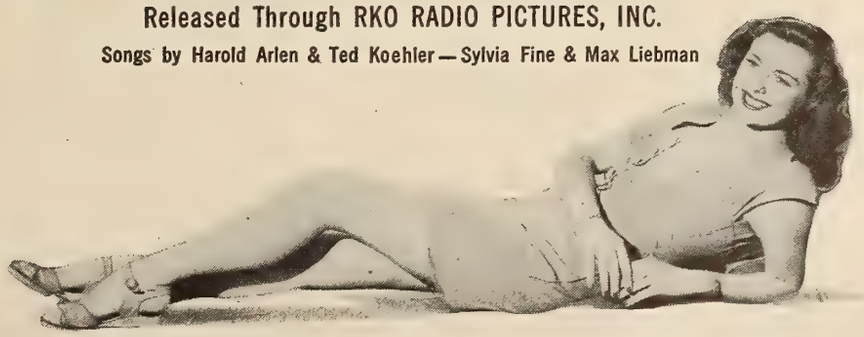
Original Screen Play by Don Hartman, Allen Boretz and Robert Pirosh

Released Through RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

Songs by Harold Arlen & Ted Koehler — Sylvia Fine & Max Liebman







"Danny Kaye's inspired idiocy runs riot at the Music Hall... If you never have seen Danny Kaye you have one of the most fantastic experiences of your theatre-going life ahead of you."
—Alton Cook
N. Y. World-Telegram

"Danny Kaye's comedy is fresh and, in spite of translation from stage to screen, still holding the quality of spontaneity... his crazy, funny double-talk songs are no less amusing on the screen than on the stage."
—Eileen Creelman

"There's grand entertainment at the Music Hall... Lavishly produced and handsomely photographed in Technicolor, the picture offers gay comedy, lilting music, decorative choruses — and Danny Kaye."
—Rose Pelswick

"Aside from its truly momentous significance as Danny Kaye's debut in film, 'Up In Arms' is undoubtedly every man's dream of what the Army ought to be like... an explosively funny picture."
—McManus

"The movie is a howl."
—*Life Magazine*

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
RED CROSS WEEK
MARCH 23-29

Labor Draft EndangersRaw Stock Release

(*Continued from page* 1)

military demand has reached its peak and settled down to a rather consistent level.

That plan, however, is menaced by the loss of skilled labor to the film manufacturing companies, who have told the War Production Board that if the present draft indications are carried out they may be unable to keep up the flow of film at its present level.

It is understood that the matter is one of concern to the Army, which is anxious that there be no interference to the supply of film, and that both the Army and WPB have taken the matter up with the War Manpower Commission, which is represented as keenly aware of the war importance of the film manufacturing industry. There has been no indication, however, of what steps the WMC will take to insure that the film manufacturers retain their essential labor.

Can't Repair Deficiency

While the manufacturers have been able to increase the production of film to a point where it is somewhat more than adequate for military and rationed needs, it is understood they have been unable to develop any inventory from which they can make up any deficiency in production.

How badly the output of raw stock will be hit by the loss of technical men, it is said, will depend on how rapidly the men are inducted and the depth of the inroad into production forces. In view of the uncertainty currently prevailing on those points, no estimate of the possible effect on supplies for motion picture producers has been possible. However, it is expected the critical point will be reached by July 1 and it is believed that production to that date can be maintained at a rate sufficient to supply the current allocations, which are to be continued unchanged through the second quarter.

$360,000 Awarded To Jackson Park

(*Continued from page* 1)

motions are not made, it is believed certain that the defendants will appeal the verdict.

Richard Saulkins, manager of the Jackson Park, stated that the owners will continue through any subsequent court procedures. Owners are: Mrs. Florence B. Bigelow, Mrs. Marian B. Koerber, John E. Bloom and William C. Bloom, sons and daughters of the late Edward I. Bloom, founder of the theatre.

Counsel for the plaintiffs, Thomas McConnell, charged that the theatre's profits of $50,000 a year dropped to an annual loss as a result of discrimination in favor of seven competitive theatres. They further alleged that the defendants conspired through block bookings to release films first to theatres the defendants owned or controlled. They asked for damages of $120,000 and an injunction against anti-trust acts.

Rodgers Sees WAC Setup Vital in Post-War Period

(*Continued from page* 1)

war to peace-time operation. War activities, in my opinion, will continue long after the final gun has been fired, regardless of the terms of the armistice, the peace or the political coloration of the administration of our Government. The dislocations of war will require that the motion picture industry continue its present job of enlightening the American public on the problems facing our country and the world.

"It is unthinkable that our Government, having found us to be an entirely willing and efficient media for distributing the war information it regards necessary to the successful prosecution of the war, will fail to utilize our vast resources and outlets for dissemination of information which it considers necessary to effect a lasting peace."

Would Keep WAC Set-Up

Rodgers recommended that the present physical set-up of the War Activities' Committees be continued with distributor representatives in the field to take the same active part in its operation as they have up to now. Insofar as M-G-M is concerned, he declared the turning point in favor of the Allies is no signal for a letup in the various drives being sponsored and to be sponsored by the WAC. On the contrary, he pointed out, the emphasis will be on increasing activity by M-G-M men, placing Government business ahead of company affairs. Rodgers emphasized that war activities will get prior attention of M-G-M forces both at the home office and in all its branches. The company will join in every united effort of the industry as it feels these to be of inestimable value in further cementing the public good will he said the industry now enjoys.

"We of M-G-M have booked and served 153,453 war film showings in theatres in the United States," Rodgers said, "but all of this is more or less training for the work we face in the coming years. War activities is no short term obligation, but a continuing task, that in my opinion may run on for several years. For my part I am willing to consider it such and am ready to pledge myself and this organization to whatever may be required of us in the shape of things to come."

Rodgers Will List Next Group Today

CHICAGO, March 12.—William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager of M-G-M, on Monday will announce the pictures to be included in the company's seventh block to company delegates attending a five-day conference at the Blackstone Hotel. While on the Coast recently he saw "Meet the People," "Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble," "Gas Light," "Two Girls and a Sailor," "Three Men in White," "Bathing Beauty," "The White Cliffs," "The Canterville Ghost," "Kismet," "The Seventh Cross," and whatever was completed on "Dragon Seed," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "National Velvet," and "The American Miracle."

Indications are that "The American Miracle" will be sold as a special on an individual contract and plans are in work to have separate trade showings in all key cities for "The White Cliffs," with special invitations along the same lines as were pursued for "The Human Comedy." Delegates attending the convention saw "White Cliffs" at B. & K.'s projection room Sunday night.

Louis B. Mayer Attends

Louis B. Mayer, production head, and Howard Strickling, studio publicity director, stopped off briefly and put in an appearance at the convention while en route to the Coast on Saturday.

The short subject department is being represented by Frank C. Quimby, here from the Coast, in addition to Herbert Morgan of the New York short subject office.

Rodgers held preliminary meetings Friday with Edwin W. Aaron, circuit sales head; Edward M. Saunders, Rodgers' assistant; H. M. Richey, exhibitor relations head, and divisional sales heads T. K. (Ted) O'Shea, J. J. Maloney and John B. Flynn.

Managerial Changes In RKO Circuit Staff

Recent staff changes in the RKO circuit include: Cecil Allard has been named assistant manager of the Shubert, Cincinnati; Harry Wachendorf replaces Kennis Kash as assistant manager of the Lyric, Cincinnati; Alexander Harrison, assistant at the Franklin, Bronx, N. Y., has been transferred to the Marble Hill, replacing B. Sweazy, resigned; Harry Tane has been assigned to the Orpheum as assistant, and Allan Platt, relief assistant manager in the Upper Manhattan, Bronx, Westchester and Northern New Jersey area, has been appointed assistant manager at the Franklin.

Perretz Joins Filmack

CHICAGO, March 12.—Al Perretz, formerly in charge of the local office of Alexander Preview Co., has been appointed director of sales for Filmack Trailer Co.

Warner Announces PhiladelphiaChanges

PHILADELPHIA, March 12.—Managerial changes in the Warner circuit here have been announced as follows: Frank Costello, manager of the Cross Keys, has been promoted to the downtown Aldine, succeeding Arthur Goldsmith, on leave of absence; Charlie Cohen has moved from the Model to the Cross Keys while Edward Rosen, rotating manager, has moved to the Model; Morris Conner has been transferred from the Hiway to the Colonial; Albert Rosenthal, rotating manager, has been appointed to manage the Columbia, succeeding Gerald Weisler, now in the Navy; Jimmy Lund has become assistant manager of the downtown Earle.

D. & D. Signs Altec

The De Mordaunt and Drennen Circuit, Idaho, has signed with Altec Service Corp. for service for all of its theatres.

Short Subject Reviews

"Open Fire"

(*Paramount*)

Grantland Rice's latest "Sportlight" is dedicated to the fighting men of the infantry. It shows the guns the doughboys use in combat, from the Garand rifle to "vest-pocket" machine guns and small cannons. Exhibitors will find this a definite asset to their programs, as it tells a story that war-minded Americans are interested in and it tells it well. Commentary is excellent. Running time, 9½ mins.

"Community Sing"

(*Columbia*)

Lew White at the organ, nicely supposted by the Song Spinners, delivers some pleasing melodies, old and new, in Community Sing No. 9 of series eight. Songs include "Sunday, Monday or Always," "For the First Time," "I Opened a Trunk," "Red River Valley" and "Make With the Bullets, Benny." Running time, 9½ mins.

"Amoozin' But Confusin'"

(*Columbia*)

The celebrated "L'il Abner" of the comic strips makes a satisfactory film debut in the start of a new series of Columbia cartoons. The hero of Dogpatch goes to the city to "git cultured" and comes back home only to be practically run out of town with his newfangled bathtub. The series looks promising; Abner's followers will be delighted with his first. Running time, 8 mins.

"Screen Snapshots, No. 7"

(*Columbia*)

One of the most interesting in the current series, "Screen Snapshots" No. 7 takes the audience through Mexico City's film colony. Director Ralph Staub introduces American film "fans" to Mexican studios and stars in an interesting tour of Clasa Films, one of Mexico's foremost companies. The subject has been handled well. Commentary is excellent and photography is good. Surprise climax shows Jinx Falkenburg and Dolores Del Rio with Mexican film-goers. Running time, 9 mins.

"Polly Wants a Doctor"

(*Columbia*)

Polly, cartoon character, has lunch with a friendly goat who feeds her a souffle of radio tubes and paper bags, flanked with other "delicacies," ranging from tin cans to mattress springs. It's an entertaining cartoon which everyone will enjoy for its humorous story by Dun Roman, and its clever musical score, by Eddie Kilfeather. Running time, 6½ mins.

"Follow Thru With Byrd"

(*Columbia*)

Sam Byrd, former baseball star and golf champion, is featured in this "World of Sports" reel. He demonstrates the rudiments of golfing. For the sportsman it is a particularly fine subject, ably directed by Harry Foster. Commentary is good. Running time, 9 mins.

$400,000 to Workers Who Do Nothing, Newspaper Charges

(*Continued from page 1*)

adds, "this squeeze has cost Cleveland fans and theatre owners millions of dollars. Before the war it was regarded as a 'make-work' project. But even that justification has been dissipated by the war. The scheme remains in force now because the union insists on it—and because exhibitors are afraid to buck it. As individuals the theatre owners are too frightened even to discuss the situation.

"They assert that they are the victims of an unqualified racket. In proof of this, they say:

"'Why must every Cleveland movie have two operators to put film on the screen when in other cities one operator does the job and then has time on his hands? And where else in the country have you ever heard of stagehands being forced on neighborhood movie houses?'" *The Press* quotes.

Union Counter-Charge

Says the newspaper: "The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees has two local branches, the movie operators and the stagehands. John B. Fitzgerald is president of the stagehands' local and the business agent is William Finegan, who is also president of the Cleveland Federation of Labor.

"They assert that it is possible for a stagehand to make himself useful around a movie house, even if it doesn't have a stage. They say exhibitors don't give the stagehands anything to do because they want to make it appear that the union men are superfluous.

"An investigation by *The Press* discloses, however, that there is little a stagehand can do around a movie house to earn his wages, even if he and the theatre owner wanted to make the most efficient use of the stagehand's services.

"Behind the screen at the State Theatre, the stagehands have built a small tent-like enclosure, equipped with a long lounging chair, bedside table and lamp, ash trays, etc. Ideal for sleeping and reading."

'Stalingrad' In Spanish

Paramount is making a Spanish-language version of the Russian war film, "The City That Stopped Hitler—Heroic Stalingrad," to be released shortly throughout Latin-America. Commentary is being written by Tito Davison with Salvador Bagues doing the narration.

$462,010,806 in Eastman Dividends

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 12.—Some $446,697,022 in common stock dividends and $15,313,784 in preferred, a total of $462,010,806, have been paid by Eastman Kodak to stockholders since the first E. K. dividend declaration in 1902. Dividend payments that year were $856,930; last year they were $12,380,022. All-time high was $18,088,000, in 1930.

Net profits for the 42-year period, after all charges and taxes, were $613,418,564.

Theatre Circuits 100% Pledged to Red Cross

(*Continued from page 1*)

Louis that theatres of Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois, of which he is local exhibitor chairman, will "jump the gun" this Wednesday and have collections at every performance every day for two full weeks, instead of one.

Reports of additional drive plans being laid in other sections of the country were brought back to New York over the weekend by several WAC touring speakers. Si Fabian, theatre division chairman, said, "Every theatre in the Atlanta territory will collect at every performance, with more houses in the campaign than ever before."

Francis S. Harmon, WAC executive vice-chairman, returning from New England, observed, "The enthusiasm there was vociferous. Exhibitors and distributors vied with each other, and suggestions came with such rapidity that one could hardly take them all down."

The Atlanta meeting at the weekend, attended by 50 exhibitors, exchangemen and local Red Cross representatives, was conducted by William K. Jenkins, head of the Lucas-Jenkins Theatres, who was named chairman for the territory. Among the speakers was Bob Wilby of Wilby-Kincey Theatres.

A quota of $300,000 for the St. Louis area was announced at the meeting there conducted by E. L. Alperson, Ben Kalmenson and Ben Shlyen, touring speakers; and chairman Harry Arthur stated that, in order to exceed the goal, the region's aim will be to collect two to three dollars per seat per theatre. Mayor A. T. Kaufman also addressed the session. Among others on the dais were: Harry Hynes, local distributor chairman; Red Cross field director Calvert D. Jessup; Chief Pharmacist's Mate Rex Moore, wounded war hero, and Capt. Roger Heimer, Coast Guard Commander of the 9th Naval District.

Internat'l Money to Ease Exchange Woes

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Preliminary discussions which may lead to the development of an international currency to eliminate exchange difficulties experienced in the past in foreign operations of the American film industry and by exporters and importers generally, have been held in Washington by financial representatives of the British and United States governments, it was learned here.

Eliminate Dual Values

The financial problem is one of a number on which such conferences are expected to be held before the end of the war with a view to working out practical bases for dealing with major questions which will arise in the reconstitution of Nazi-held Europe and resumption of international trade. An international currency unit, definitely fixing the relationship of the currencies of the various countries, would go far to stabilize trade which in the past has been at times seriously affected by the day-to-day changes in exchange values, it is said. It would also eliminate dual values which were applied in some countries before the war for the purpose of encouraging exports or discouraging imports.

The whole range of financial problems is expected to be explored during the conversations now going on, including the question of frozen funds which, before the war prevented American film companies from getting all or a part of their money out of several countries.

'Canteen' Re-Booked

"Stage Door Canteen," Sol Lesser production distributed by United Artists, will play a return engagement as a single feature on Loew's Metropolitan circuit sometime in July. Other metropolitan circuits, it is understood, will re-book the film after the Loew run.

O'Connor, Sanford Again Head Drive

(*Continued from page 1*)

will be recruited from men in the industry.

The special gifts committee, comprising business and professional leaders of New York organized in groups, will function prior to the annual parish appeal of Catholic Charities, which will begin April 30 in the 374 parishes of the New York Archdiocese. This is the 25th annual appeal of the organization which coordinates, supervises and directs the work of 200 institutions and agencies including hospitals, child-caring homes, settlement houses, day nurseries, homes for the aged, summer camps and many other welfare agencies, including family relief.

Last year New York Catholic Charities aided over 600,000 individuals in the New York Archdiocese, which comprises the Greater New York and Westchester, Orange, Dutchess, Rockland, Ulster, Putnam and Sullivan counties.

Defer Talks on 10 'IA' Proposals

(*Continued from page 1*)

sentatives and the producers has been set for Wednesday.

Meanwhile the producers will meet in Casey's office today with representatives of the seven AFL studio locals who are signatories of the studio basic labor agreement. Some 7,000 drivers, electricians, musicians, plasterers, laborers, carpenters and culinary workers are involved. Sessions with these unions are not expected to consume more than a day or two with the possibility that the producers and Casey might be able to start their sessions with the representatives of the Conference of Studio Unions by tomorrow. Seven other AFL locals are members of the Conference.

WAC Antidote For Overseas Film Jibes

(*Continued from page 1*)

dustry contributes 16-mm prints of whatever new features the Army selects, with the Army responsible for distribution and exhibition; that many films are shown in far-off outposts simultaneous with their first runs on American soil, and some even earlier; that, however, occasional delays must be expected because of the exigencies of war; that, while some old pictures are shown in foreign theatres, these are mostly in the hands of native exhibitors, whose release dates have always trailed those in the United States; and that, moreover, many of our boys at the front are too young to have seen the classics of other years and should have an opportunity to enjoy them.

A wide variety of methods will be used to convey the facts. There will be articles in *Yank*, the *Army and Navy Journal, Stars and Stripes, Outpost* and other servicemen's publications.

Fan Magazine Contests

Fan magazines at home will be asked to donate a free page advertisement in each issue and to offer war bond awards to families of service men abroad who have written the "most interesting letter on films overseas." On records sent out by the Hollywood Victory Committee, under Col. Tom Lewis, it will be typical for a star like Ann Sheridan to say: "Here is a song from my latest picture, which I understand you guys have already seen."

Special use will be made of radio, with informational interviews with stars returning from abroad telling their experiences over the air. "Soap operas" will include sequences devoted to soldiers overseas seeing films. The Lux Theatre of the Air, Screen Actors Guild show, Kate Smith Hour, Hall of Fame, etc., will all mention: "This is one of a group of current films sent abroad for free showing," in connection with picture tieups.

Motion pictures will aid in telling their own story through such means as the Army's short subject "Film Bulletin," the inclusion in important features of sequences on service men seeing pictures overseas, and a possible trade mark on domestic prints to explain that their 16mm counterparts are being sent abroad.

Business Is Off, Workers Cut Pay

Mexico City, March 12.—Film workers at Tepic have voluntarily cut their wages because of poor business in theatres. The workers, affiliated with the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union, have foregone part of a recently granted wage increase to aid employers in the slump.

Similar action has been taken by workers in all towns of the State of Nayarit where business has also decreased.

RCA

Congratulates....



★RKO and Stephen Dunn on
"THIS LAND IS MINE"
Sound award winner

★Warner Brothers on
"CASABLANCA"
Outstanding motion picture

★Warner Brothers, Ray Heindorf and Leo Forbstein on
"THIS IS THE ARMY"
Best scoring of a musical picture

★Paramount, Grantland Rice and Jack Eaton on
"AMPHIBIOUS FIGHTERS"
Best one-reel short

These 1943 Academy Award Winners were recorded with the

SOUND RCA **SYSTEM**

DO NOT R

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 51 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1944 TEN CENTS

Round-Figure Price Raise To Meet Tax

Small Rise Plus Tax to Avoid Using Pennies

Exhibitors generally will raise admissions five and ten cents to avoid the use of pennies, which are both scarce and bothersome in handling, to meet the new Federal tax imposts of one cent on each five cents of admissions, which become effective April 1.

Latest to decide are exhibitors of Memphis, Chicago, Cleveland, New Haven, Minneapolis, St. Louis and Des Moines, adding to those previously mentioned.

Application of the tax was discussed at the annual meeting of Allied of Illnois in Chicago recently with

(*Continued on page 6*)

New Ruling Spoils 30 Tons of Tickets

CHICAGO, March 13.—Two thousand new theatre price trailers and 100,000,000 new tickets requiring 30 tons of stock are being junked here Revenue Commissioners' ruling holdas a result of a U. S. Internal ing fractional prices illegal, it was reported today. These items are being disposed of in this city to save the cost of shipping them to midstate theatres where state taxes are in effect.

Meanwhile, it has been learned, the

(*Continued on page 14*)

Mexico AsksDeForest To Set Up Factories

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Mexico has invited Dr. Lee De Forest to visit there soon with a view to establishing factories for the production of his inventions in sound picture synchronization, radio and other fields, it was disclosed here today by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

De Forest was said in the report to have expressed a desire to establish specialized factories in Mexico. Largely known as a pioneer in sound, with inventions that had much to do with the development of broadcasting, he also has done much work in the field of sound picture synchronization and in other related phases.

20th-Fox Accord With Rank Is Near, Skouras Indicates

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, March 13.—Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY tonight that the proposed cooperative deal between his company and J. Arthur Rank, British film and theatre mentor, was not yet completed but was practically agreed upon.

Meanwhile, Noel Coward has cabled from South Africa refusing to allow his picture "This Happy Breed" to be distributed through Rank's Eagle-Lion Films. He is supported in his stand by Fillippo Del Guidice, managing director of Two Cities Film Co., who fears that the enormous preliminary overhead of the new American organization will tend to curtail the profits on British product.

Indications here are that Arthur W. Kelly, Eagle-Lion president, will be absorbed by 20th-Fox as Rank's agent in the United States.

M-G-M's 7th Block Is Cut to Five

CHICAGO, March 13. — M-G-M's seventh block, the third this season, will consist of only five pictures, according to William F. Rodgers, vice-president in charge of sales, presiding at the company's sales meeting at the Blackstone Hotel here. There were 12 each in the previous two blocks this season.

The films, in tentative order of release during May and June, are:

(*Continued on page 14*)

Unions Must File With U. S. Tomorrow

Labor unions, including all guilds and unions in the film business, are supposed to file financial statements with the U. S. Treasury tomorrow as required by the new tax law.

The law contains no provision for making public the statements, but they will be available to authorized Congressional committees which could release such information. The law exempts religious, charitable and educational organizations from the provision.

Producers Meet 2nd Labor Group

Conferences got underway here yesterday in the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, between producers and heads of the seven international unions whose locals are signatories to the studio basic labor agreement. The producers' labor heads and representatives of the seven studio locals also attended.

According to Casey, the union representatives consumed most of the time at yesterday's sessions working up proposals which would form the basis of a new contract to replace the agreement which expired on Jan. 1. The union representatives will meet again in Casey's office this morning. It is not expected that a new agreement will be reached for several weeks.

Heads of the international unions

(*Continued on page 14*)

Distribution In Phila. Is 'Local Need'

Exchange Applications Approved by WMC

Film distribution in the Philadelphia area has been designated as "locally needed," Ned E. Depinet chairman of the distributors' division of the War Activities Committee announced at a Red Cross meeting in Philadelphia yesterday. The designation has been approved by regional headquarters of the War Manpower Commission for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware; Frank L. McNamee is director, WAC headquarters here disclosed.

Application for the designation "locally needed," after having been approved by the heads of all distribution companies, was signed both by representatives of these companies in Philadelphia and by all independent

(*Continued on page 14*)

Weis Case Settled On Eve of Trial

ATLANTA, March 13.—Settlement of the $218,000 damage action brought against Lucas & Jenkins and the eight major distribution companies by Fred Weis, operator of the Savannah Theatre, Savannah, Ga., was effected today just prior to the scheduled opening of trial of the case in Federal court here.

Under the settlement, it was reported, a readjustment of product will be made for the Savannah and Weis will be paid a total of $19,000 by several, but not all, of the defendants. The case had been pending since 1938. Plaintiff alleged that as a result of unfair practices he had been obliged to abandon construction of a theatre in Savannah.

$2,075,069 Bonus To Eastman Staffs

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 13.—A total of 38,316 employes of Eastman Kodak throughout the Western Hemisphere shared in the 32nd annual wage dividend distributed by the company today.

In Rochester, 26,715 employes shared in the bonus, nearly 4,000 more than last year. A total of $2,075,069 was distributed, with $1,532,835 going to employes here.

Films Are Best Red Cross Booster, Mayor Declares

PHILADELPHIA, March 13.—Motion pictures can do more than any other media to bring before the people the full importance of the Red Cross drive, Mayor Bernard Samuel told the motion picture theatres' division 1944 Red Cross campaign luncheon-meeting at the Broadwood Hotel, here today.

More than 365 exhibitor and distributor representatives attended from Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware. They also heard Joseph Bernhard, the industry's national chairman for the drive, and Ned E. Depinet, national distributor chairman, in the 25th of 26 nation-

(*Continued on page 14*)

Ohio to Shift to Eastern War Time

COLUMBUS, O., March 13.—All key cities in Ohio and the majority of other communities will change from Central to Eastern War Time between now and May 1, it is disclosed in a statewide survey by the Ohio Retail Merchants Association.

Remaining on Eastern War Time throughout the year are Ashtabula, Bellaire, Conneaut, East Liverpool, Martins Ferry and Willard, while Bryan, Urbana and Wauseon, now on Central War Time, have voted not to make the change.

Reach Agreement on Copyright Extension

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Great Britain and the U. S. have agreed to an extension of time for fulfillment of conditions for securing copyright during the war through an exchange of notes between Secretary of State Hull and Viscount Halifax, the British Ambassador.

The British listed British territories to which the agreement applies. Attached was a copy of an Order in Council published in London according copyright extension privileges to authors and copyright proprietors of the U. S. The American note was accompanied by President Roosevelt's proclamation according equivalent copyright extension privileges to British authors and copyright proprietors in British territories and to similar persons who are citizens of Palestine.

The reciprocal action was taken because of disturbed conditions which temporarily prevent compliance with required conditions.

Judge's VacationMay Delay New Trial Step

CHICAGO, March 13.—Judge Michael Igoe, who presided at the trial of the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust suit, which was concluded here at the weekend, is reported planning a two-week vacation, and thus action on the major distributing companies' motion for a new trial may be delayed from three to four weeks.

Myles G. Seeley, key defense attorney, explained today that no appeal from the $360,000 verdict will be taken pending the outcome of the new-trial motion.

Bowes, Halsey Aide, Joins 'M. P. Herald'

Julian W. Bowes, former public relations officer on the staff of Admiral William F. Halsey, Commander of the South Pacific Force, and recently returned to civil life, has joined the editorial staff of *Motion Picture Herald*. Lieut. Bowes, who is also a veteran of World War I, was a reporter and re-write man on New York City newspapers. He is also a fiction writer.

Long Leave for Rapf; Disclaims Retirement

HOLLYWOOD, March 13.—Harry Rapf, M-G-M producer, will leave for the East next week on company business and will then relinquish his duties for a three-month holiday. He denies persistent rumors that he intends retiring, with the bulk of his assignments being taken over by M. J. Siegel.

Bernhard's Son to Marry

LONDON, March 13.—Jean Gillie, British actress, today announced her engagement to Lieut. Jack Bernhard, U. S. Air Force, son of Joseph Bernhard, Warner vice-president in charge of theatre operations. The wedding is scheduled for June.

Personal Mention

DAVID BERNSTEIN, Loew's vice-president and treasurer, returned yesterday from Florida.

•

P/FC BENJAMIN POLLOCK, formerly of Universal's home office advertising-publicity staff, has arrived at an Air Service Command base "somewhere in England," assigned as a news writer for a public relations staff.

•

CORP. WERNER KATZ, formerly of Loew's 83rd Street Theatre here, reported yesterday to have been killed in action in North Burma, is now reported by the War Department to have suffered only minor injuries.

•

J. LAWRENCE SCHANBERGER, owner of Keith's, Baltimore, reports the awarding of the Distinguished Service Cross to his son, FREDERICK, for outstanding service in the South Pacific.

•

JOHN J. PAYETTE, Warner theatre zone manager, Washington, is observing his 25th anniversary with the company and its predecessors.

•

SIDNEY COHEN, former booker for Cooperative Theatres, Cleveland, has been made a captain at the Wright Field, Dayton, O., Signal Corps unit.

•

LEO MCCARTHY, PRC sales manager, is due back in New York from conferences with franchise holders in Cleveland and Cincinnati.

•

JOHN FLINN, secretary of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, is due here from Hollywood on Thursday.

•

FRED RICHARDS, Biloxi, Miss., theatre manager, has left to join the Merchant Marine at Savannah, Ga.

•

WILLIAM Z. PORTER, Monogram traveling auditor, will start a Southern and Midwestern tour March 20.

•

STANLEY SHUFORD, Paramount advertising head, is expected from the Coast today.

•

KAY KAMEN, merchandise representative of Walt Disney Productions, will leave for the Coast tomorrow.

•

HARRY C. ARTHUR, JR., general manager of Fanchon and Marco, has returned to St. Louis from Hollywood.

•

WILLIAM N. SKIRBALL, Cleveland circuit owner, is in California on vacation.

•

R. A. FOSTER, manager of the Community Theatre, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. is ill with influenza.

•

GEORGE ETTINGER, Columbia Pictures home office exploiteer, is in Hartford.

•

GERALDINE HAWKINS, M-G-M employe, has returned to Buffalo from a special assignment in Boston.

•

V. J. CHRISTENSEN, assistant studio manager for 20th-Fox, will leave for Hollywood tomorrow.

SIDNEY TOWELL, 20th-Fox treasurer, returned over the weekend from Hollywood.

•

NATHAN E. GOLDSTEIN, president of Western Massachusetts Theatres, Springfield, Mass., a Paramount partnership, and MRS. GOLDSTEIN, are New York visitors, en route home from Washington where they visited with their three sons in service.

•

DANIEL POLLOCK, eight-and a-half pounder, was born Sunday to LOU POLLOCK of United Artists' advertising-publicity department, and MRS. POLLOCK, at Fifth Avenue Hospital here.

•

LOU COHEN, manager of Loew's Poli, Hartford, and MRS. COHEN, have announced the engagement of their son, SGT. BEN COHEN, to MISS LILA NATHANSON of Waterbury, Conn.

•

JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ, 20th Century-Fox studio representative in New York, is due back from Hollywood March 20.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, United Artists Eastern publicity manager, and Mrs. Jeffrey, celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary last Friday.

•

ED RAMSEY, owner of the Plymouth, only theatre at Plymouth, O., is closing the house for the duration because of a call for Navy duty.

•

HARRY MINTZ, 37-year-old grandfather and manager of Warner's Parthenon, Hammond, Ind., has been inducted.

•

MISS DORIS ALLEN, assistant manager of the Newsreel Theatre, Baltimore, has announced her engagement to RODNEY DUNBAR.

•

HARRY THOMAS, Monogram's Eastern sales head, is en route to Springfield, Ill., and St. Louis, after visiting Chicago.

•

ROBERT GILLHAM, Paramount's advertising-publicity director, has returned from Washington.

•

EDWARD L. ALPERSON, RKO Theatres' general manager, has returned from a Red Cross drive speaking tour.

•

SAM HOROWITZ, assistant manager of Loew's Palace, Meriden, Conn., is on the sick list.

•

SGT. HOLLIS SWEENEY, former student assistant at Loew's Palace, Hartford, is now stationed in New Zealand.

•

JACQUELINE BECKER, 20th-Fox biller at the Buffalo exchange, has joined the Waves.

•

MISS CYRENNE LESTER, Republic Buffalo assistant cashier, has become engaged to PFC. AL PIETRZAK.

•

DAVID BLUM, M-G-M foreign publicity director, is expected back from the Coast the latter part of this week.

Larry Golob Named WB Publicity Head

Larry Golob, who has been with Warners' publicity department for 19 years in various field and home office capacities, has been named Eastern publicity manager, succeeding Allan Meltzer who resigned last week. Mort Blumenstock, Eastern advertising-publicity director, announced yesterday.

At the same time Blumenstock announced that Irving Yergin has been appointed assistant to Golob, taking over the work of home office contact with the field exploitation force formerly handled by Golob, in addition to continuing in charge of special events activities.

Postpone 'U' Screening

Screening of Universal's "Follow the Boys," originally scheduled for tomorrow at the Normandie Theatre here, has been postponed to March 23 at 10:15 a.m., the company announced yesterday.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
DANNY KAYE
"UP IN ARMS"
Dinah Shore • Constance Cummings
In Technicolor Released thru RKO
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

Held Over 2nd Week



RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
STARTS TOMORROW
Maria Montez • Jon Hall
Turhan Bey
'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
ON SCREEN
ROBERT TAYLOR
SUSAN PETERS
In M-G-M's
"SONG OF RUSSIA"
IN PERSON
Walter O'KEEFE
Ray EBERLE
Ben CARTER
& Manton MORELAND

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco. London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c

Norman Davis Praises Industry Drive

Depinet Calls For Assistant FieldChairmen

Exchange area chairmen for the motion picture theatres' 1944 Red Cross campaign have been requested by Ned E. Depinet, distributor chairman for the drive, to appoint assistant chairmen to aid them in their work.

Depinet urged that the appointments be made at once so that the alternate may be ready to take over in case the regular chairman becomes unavailable at any time during the drive.

The assistant also could prove helpful in facilitating many of the steps of the campaign by relieving the chairman of minor details, thus leaving those of major importance to the head of the area, Depinet points out. The appointment of an assistant chairman also makes it possible for New York headquarters of the industry's Red Cross campaign to have closer contact with the individual areas at all times.

Depinet suggested that other heads exchanges be appointed as assistant chairmen—those branch managers who had not previously served as chairmen. It was originally recommended that these appointments be made by Depinet himself, but the distributor chairman deemed it more satisfactory to local exchange area chairmen to do the appointing.

$25,000 to Red Cross

WASHINGTON, March 13. — The April 1 preview of Cecil B. DeMille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell," scheduled for Constitution Hall here, will net $25,000 for the Navy League's Red Cross fund, according to an announcement by the joint sponsoring committee, of which Frank Luther Mott, Navy League executive, is chairman.

Mandel and Dowden Map All-Out N. Y. Campaign

One of the big campaigns in work for Red Cross Week is that of the New York area, planned by publicity chairmen Harry Mandel and Eddie Dowden, to embrace practically every field of promotion open to them.

Mandel and Dowden recommend that every exhibitor in the area use the press book prepared by the War Activities Committee, and also urge use of trailer and free kit provided by National Screen, the latter comprising a one-sheet, 40 x 60, and midget window card; in addition, National Screen is handling at cost, a valance, banner, streamers, stills and sashes. They point out that theatres must be decorated and placarded. "Red Cross displays should be kept in prominent spots," owners are advised, and "a Red Cross collection container should be chained down on the war bond booth, in order to collect odd change from war stamp sales.

Suggest Extra Collectors

New York theatres are urged to contact local Red Cross chapters for Red Cross workers to aid in the theatre, in order to assist theatres with depleted house staffs. It is also suggested that AWVS women, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other organizations help make collections.

"Red Cross Week should be opened with a gala parade," Dowden and Mandel state in instructions to theatres. They urge that exhibitors contact the local chapter for cooperation in securing Red Cross nurses, mobile units, canteens, flags and bands for the parade. A hero can be obtained to make an appeal from the stage. Theatres with stage shows, or special stage nights such as amateur shows, are asked to incorporate a Red Cross pageant in their shows during the week of theatre collections. It is suggested that during collections, a Red Cross slide be used so that the screen will not be blank. Appropriate music can be played.

New York Committee

Complete committee for the New York area consists of Ernest Emerling, Sid Kain, Paula Gould, Al Naroff, Irving Windisch, Janice Rentschler, Nick Matsoukas, Jack McInerny, John A. Cassidy, Blanche Livingston, Peggy Foldes, Homer Harmon, Jerry Sager, Ira Morais, Clement Perry, Sam Coolick, Joe Lee, Al Zimbalist, Sol Handwerger, Teddy Trust, Myron Segal, Mannie Frisch, Ray Malone, Peter McCarty, Irving Ludwig, William Slater, Vincent Liguori and Robert Paskow.

RC Chairman Sees Greater Theatre Aid

Greater theatre participation than ever before, resulting in substantially greater collections, is seen by Norman H. Davis, chairman of the American Red Cross, in a message to Si Fabian, WAC-motion picture theatres' division chairman, dealing with the industry's part in the 1944 Red Cross drive, March 23-29.

"The executive committee of the theatres division is of the opinion that even more than 1942's 14,000 participating theatres will join in this year's campaign, provided local chapters make it clear that this important cooperation is desired," the message said.

"With close local cooperation between chapters and exhibitors, a substantially larger sum can be secured toward this year's increased national goal.

"The eagerness of the motion picture industry's leaders to undertake aggressive participation in this humanitarian effort is evidenced by the letter written by the chairman of the theatres division to 16,500 member exhibitors. I have provided the War Activities Committee with copies of this letter to you, so that each exhibitor may have one.

"Last year's experience amply demonstrates that the benefits from Red Cross Week in American motion picture theatres are many. Literally millions of people gave a second time; other millions never reached by personal solicitation responded to an appeal from the screen. Since all local quotas constitute minimum goals, we believe that theatre collections should be conducted in every community during the fourth week in March, even though the minimum goal may have been reached or exceeded.

Schine Circuit Sets Drive Honor Roll

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y., March 13.— The Schine Circuit has inaugurated a "Grand Guys" Honor Roll for managers in whose theatres $1,000 or more is collected for the Red Cross.

Seymour Morris, advertising-publicity head of the circuit, has outlined a campaign to tie in with the industry's drive. Schine managers have been apprised of WAC selling aids by Morris, who urges that they collect at every performance.

Air Hero Featured In Red Cross Show

AMSTERDAM, N. Y., March 13.— Clayton Cornell, manager of Schine's Strand Theatre here, with the assistance of S/Sgt. Louis B. Sykes, Amsterdam hero, has arranged a Red Cross stage program called "Amsterdamians Save Lives."

Every important merchant in town was prevailed upon to carry a box in their ads calling attention to the stage show. Sgt. Sykes, who is in the show, is a turret gunner on a B-26 bomber and has flown 40 missions.



Scene at the speakers' table at the Buffalo Red Cross film industry luncheon-rally the other day in the Hotel Statler. Left to right: E. Ray Hodge, executive secretary, Buffalo Red Cross chapter; John Reed, treasurer, Red Cross; Mannie A. Brown, film distributors' chairman; Harry Kalmine; Henderson M. Richey; Max M. Yellen, exhibitors' chairman; Lewis G. Harriman, president; Buffalo Red Cross chapter; Vincent R. McFaul, exhibitors' co-chairman; Martin G. Smith; C. J. Latta, Albany; Joe Lee; Charles B. Taylor, Buffalo area public relations chairman, and E. R. Swartzenburg, secretary to Mayor Joseph J. Kelly of Buffalo.

Across the Seven Seas . . . In the Far Corners of the Earth . . .

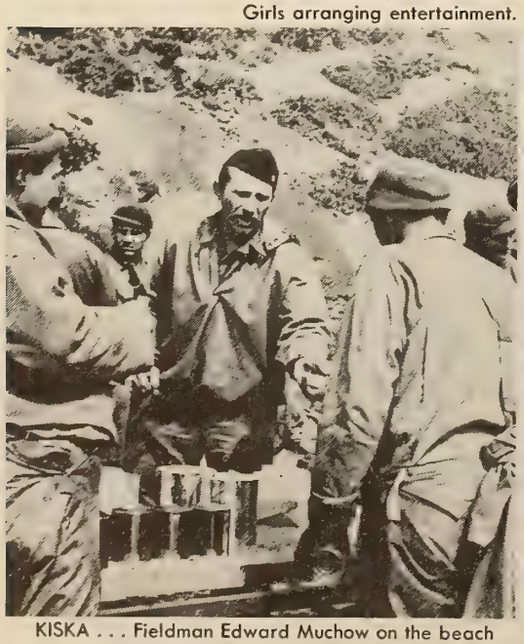
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

CANTEEN SERVICE FOLLOWS THE FLAG!

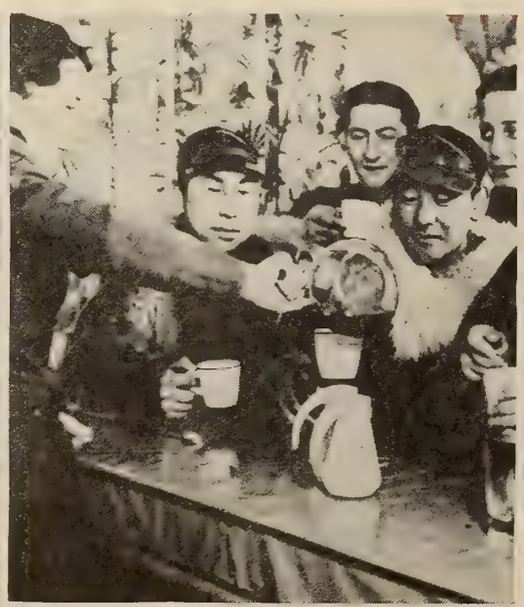


PALERMO, ITALY . . . Red Cross servicemen's club . . . formerly swank beach club at Mondallo. Our soldiers swim, sail, rest and eat with Red Cross Girls arranging entertainment.

Be sure to do everything possible to support RED CROSS WEEK, March 23rd so that the American Red Cross canteen service can carry on this wonderful work among the boys and girls who are carrying our flag on the battlefields of the world.



KISKA . . . Fieldman Edward Muchow on the beach with invading Americans. Red Cross Canteen served first hot food to our men.



ESKIMOS KNOW THE RED CROSS TOO. Here's Miss Dora Hergerth serving hot coffee to a group of Eskimo boys who are entertaining our men with tall tales of tomcod fishing.



RED CROSS REST CAMP in the heart of the Himalayas. Hamburghers, doughnuts, soft drinks and American Red Cross girls make life bearable for Uncle Sam's boys.



SOMEWHERE IN SICILY . . . American Red Cross Fieldman Edward Wasiniak moves up with the troops of our 1st Division on the Mt. Etna front.



NEW GUINEA . . . in the heart of the fighting zone. The soldiers have a word for it and it's "just a little bit of allright", . . . otherwise known as the Red Cross Club.



FIJI ISLANDS . . . American boys dance in an American Red Cross Theatre.



AN ADVANCED BASE IN PACIFIC AREA . . . Red Cross Field Worker Mrs. Texas Judy entertains the boys.



BOMBED OUT RED CROSS CLUB somewhere in Great Britain. This Red Cross Club became first air post during raid.



SOMEWHERE IN THE SOLOMONS . . . American Red Cross Canteen is open to all servicemen.



CALCUTTA, INDIA . . Mable Wong picks up the marbles at American Red Cross Enlisted Men's Club.

They Do Not Fail Us...
We Shall Not Fail Them!

COLLECT AT EVERY PERFORMANCE!

This advertisement contributed by
UNIVERSAL PICTURES CO., INC.

Slight Spurt Sends Films In Work to 37

HOLLYWOOD, March 13.—Production stepped up slightly during the week with nine new films going before the cameras while only three finished to bring the total number in work to 37. The previous week registered seven finished, six started, 30 in work. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Shooting: "Calling All Stars," "Mr. Winkle Goes to War," "Pilebuck."

M-G-M

Started: "Mrs. Parkington" with Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon, Edward Arnold, Agnes Moorehead, Donna Reed, Gladys Cooper, Tom Drake, Hugh Marlowe. "The Picture of Dorian Grey" with George Sanders, Hurd Hatfield, Angela Lansbury, Donna Reed, Peter Lawford.

Shooting: "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Secrets in the Dark," "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "National Velvet."

Finished: "The Seventh Cross."

Monogram

Started: "Hangman's Law" with Johnny Mack Brown, Raymond Hatton.

Paramount

Shooting: "Practically Yours," "Bring on the Girls."

P.R.C.

Started: "Ringside" with Buster Crabbe, Arline Judge, Julie Gibson, Glenn Strange, Donald Mayo.

Shooting: "Minstrel Man."

RKO-Radio

Started: "None But the Lonely Heart" with Cary Grant, Ethel Barrymore, Jane Wyatt, Joe Vitale, Eva Leonard Boyne, Renie Riano, Marcell Dill.

Shooting: "Heavenly Days," "Manhattan Serenade," "Casanova Brown," (International).

Republic

Started: "Call of the South Seas" with Janet Martin, Allan Lane, Bill Henry, Roy Barcroft, Wally Vernon, Duncan Renaldo. "Goodnight, Sweetheart," with Ruth Terry, Bob Livingston, Robert Armstrong, Henry Hull, Lloyd Corrigan.

Shooting: "Tucson Raiders," "Yellow Rose of Texas."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Wing and a Prayer," "Keys of the Kingdom," "Sweet and Lowdown," "Wilson."

Finished: "In the Meantime, Darling."

Universal

Started: "Murder in the Blue Room" with Anne Gwynne, Grace McDonald, Donald Cook, June Preisser, Regis Toomey, Samuel S. Hinds.

Shooting: "The Ghost Catchers," "The Climax."

Finished: "South of Dixie."

Warners

Started: "The Very Thought of You" with Ida Lupino, Dennis Morgan, Faye Emerson, Dane Clark, William Prince, Marianne O'Brien, Beulah Bondi, Henry Travers.

Shooting: "The Conspirators," "To Have and Have Not," "The Doughgirls," "Cinderella Jones," "Janie."

Round-Figure Price Rise To Avoid Using Pennies

(*Continued from page* 1)

owners there expected to follow the lead of B. & K. which has already indicated five and ten cent boosts. Also, the trustees of PCCITO, Los Angeles, have recommended to all West Coast exhibitors that they at least add the tax to regular admissions and not absorb it.

It is expected that the major circuits will be guided by individual situations, rounding out admissions where odd figures would exist.

Generally in cases of a 30-cent and 55-cent admission, where the new tax would bring the new admissions to 36 and 66 cents, respectively, exhibitors are expected to absorb the extra cent to maintain a "round" figure.

Inquiries reveal that admissions to children will not be raised beyond the tax rise, and in some cases part of the tax will be absorbed in the interest of round figures. The penny problem at matinees especially would be a burden, it is felt.

Leaders in exhibition are of two divergent opinions on how to present the new tax figures before their customers. Some will say nothing and do nothing, expecting the change to excite no special attention in these free spending days. Others will emphatically inform the public that the rise in prices is due to a new amusement tax schedule. Among those holding for the first policy are Paramount, RKO Theatres and Warmer Theatres, operating a total of over 2,200 theatres.

The new tax provides for increases of pennies in all cases except 25, 50, 75 and $1.00 admissions. On ten-cent admissions the tax will bring the total admission to 12 cents; to 18 cents on 15-cent admissions; to 24 cents on 20-cent admissions; to 36 cents on 30-cent admissions; to 42 cents on 35-cent admissions; to 48 cents on 40-cent admissions; to 54 cents on 45-cent admissions, etc. These tax-and-ticket-cost figures will in most cases be rounded out to a five or ten cent base.

Memphis exhibitors expect to set 30 and 35-cent scales for neighborhood theatres and 55 or 60-cent evening prices in downtown theatres. St. Louis exhibitors will hike their present scales of 30c-40c-50c to 40c-50c-60c. A 60-cent evening price is planned by New Haven exhibitors in place of the present 50-cent top, with the exception of the Paramount which has a 55-cent top. B & K in Chicago plans to raise its evening prices in the Loop from an 85 to a 95-cent top, with neighborhood "A" houses going from 35 to 40 cents and from 50 cents to 55 cents for matinees, and from 60 to 65 cents for evenings.

Des Moines to Jump 5c

Des Moines exhibitors have indicated that they will jump their prices to the next five-cent mark except for 10-cent children admissions. Prices will be increased from 30 to 35, 40 to 45 and from 56 to 60 cents.

Reduced servicemen's tickets which are now 25 cents generally will only be raised to 26 cents. There is still no tax on admissions under 10 cents. The tax on reduced servicemen's admissions will remain the same, being the tax on the admission actually paid and not on the price of the seat occupied. Reduced rate tickets, such as students' tickets, must carry the same tax as full rate admissions, but men of the armed forces may be admitted without tax when admitted free.

Clearance Awarded To Quincy Randolph

An arbitration clearance award in favor of Randolph Amusement Co., operating the Randolph, Randolph, Mass., has been entered at the Boston tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday. Matthew Brown, arbitrator, held that clearance of 14 days granted by Warners, Loew's and RKO to Quincy first run theatres over the Randolph is unreasonable.

The maximum clearance of the Strand and Quincy Theatres, Quincy, on the one hand and the Randolph, Randolph, on the other is fixed as follows: The Randolph may play directly after the first-run Quincy or 21 days after availability to the Quincy, whichever is earlier. It was further stipulated that nothing in the finding shall affect the clearances existing in favor of the first-run Brockton over the Randolph.

The arbitrator dismissed the complaint against 20th-Fox because at present no contracts exist between the plaintiff and 20th. Costs were assessed equally among the remaining four defendants.

Walter Stokes, W-K Circuit Auditor, Dies

Walter L. Stokes, 56, auditor of the Wilby-Kincey circuit, Atlanta, died in that city last Friday, Paramount's home office reported yesterday. Funeral services will be held this morning in the Thomas Healy Funeral Parlors, Old Greenwich, Conn.

Stokes was at the Paramount home office here for many years, in the accounting department. He was transferred to Wilby-Kincey in 1933.

Reserves Decision In Century Action

Judge William R. Wilson in Kings County Supreme Court has reserved decision in the trial of the action of Century Circuit to restrain Empire State Operators Union from dissolving as a corporation. Century obtained an injunction to prevent the dissolution of Empire last year, shortly before Empire merged with New York projectionists Local 306. A decision is not expected for several weeks.

Mrs. McGaffey Dies

HOLLYWOOD, March 13.—Mrs. Elizabeth McGaffey, 59, head of the RKO research department, died today in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital here.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 13

HERMAN ROBBINS, president of National Screen, arrived here today from New York.

•

Cliff Work, Universal vice-president and general manager in charge of production, arrived here over the weekend from New York. Playwright Moss Hart will leave for New York on Wednesday.

•

Silas F. Seadler, M-G-M advertising manager, arrived here today. Louis B. Mayer, production head, and Howard Strickling, studio publicity director, will arrive tomorrow.

•

Raoul Pene du Bois, art director and designer, has been signed by Paramount for another year. Du Bois is now working on sets for "Bring On the Girls."

•

Lucille W. Gleason, wife of actor Jimmy Gleason, has announced her candidacy for the California State Assembly in the 59th District.

•

"Who Are Your Parents?" is the new title of the Republic production formerly titled "Where Are Your Parents?"

•

Ben Kalmenson, Sam Schneider, Herman Starr and Mort Blumenstock, Warner home office executives, have arrived here from the East.

•

Gradwell L. Sears, United Artists president, and Edward C. Raftery, distribution vice-president, arrived here today.

•

Dick Powell has obtained release from his Paramount contract and intends to freelance.

•

Michele Morgan, French film actress, has become an American citizen.

•

Jack Dietz, Monogram producer, has returned here from New York.

Directors to Protest Oversight on Award

HOLLYWOOD, March 13.—Unhappy because the award for last year's best achievement in directing (won by Michael Curtiz of Warners' "Casablanca") was not included in the ceremonies broadcast from Grauman's Chinese Theatre here on March 2, the Screen Directors Guild has appointed a committee of six to protest to Walter Wanger, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Named on the committee are George Marshall, Henry King, Frank Tuttle, Sam Wood, Howard Hawks and Mervyn LeRoy.

John P. McGowan, secretary of the guild, said today that the omission was probably an oversight.

Vogel Seriously Ill

William M. Vogel, well known in export circles here, is seriously ill. He was stricken in his office, 11 West 42nd Street, late last week, and removed to his home at Croton, N. Y. At present interested in production, Vogel was at one time M-G-M foreign chief. He handled the initial Charles Chaplin films for export.

So Big

IT TOOK A TWO-PAGE ADVERTISEMENT IN LIFE* TO TELL THIS STORY!

*22,000,000 Readers



Matchless music by **JEROME KERN**

Lilting lyrics by **IRA GERSHWIN**

Dazzling **TECHNICOLOR**

Enchanting **LOVE STORY**

Entrancing **DANCING**

and *15* of America's most Beautiful **COVER GIRLS!**

All this..

and *Hayworth too!*

RITA HAYWORTH
GENE KELLY

Cover Girl

in Technicolor!



with **Lee Bowman · Phil Silvers**

Jinx Falkenburg

Screen Play by **VIRGINIA VAN UPP**

Directed by CHARLES VIDOR

A COLUMBIA PICTURE



COVER GIRL is destined to be 1944's most memorable musical...an exciting motion picture experience that you will remember for a long, long time!

– and that's only part of the story . . . . . .

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IN . . .



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BOXOFFICE: *Cover Girl* is far and away the best musical to reach the screen in several seasons...in fact, one would not be going too far overboard to appraise it THE ALL-TIME BEST!

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THE EXHIBITOR: A field day for showmen. Headed for the higher brackets.

SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW: Sure attraction! A very stunning show!

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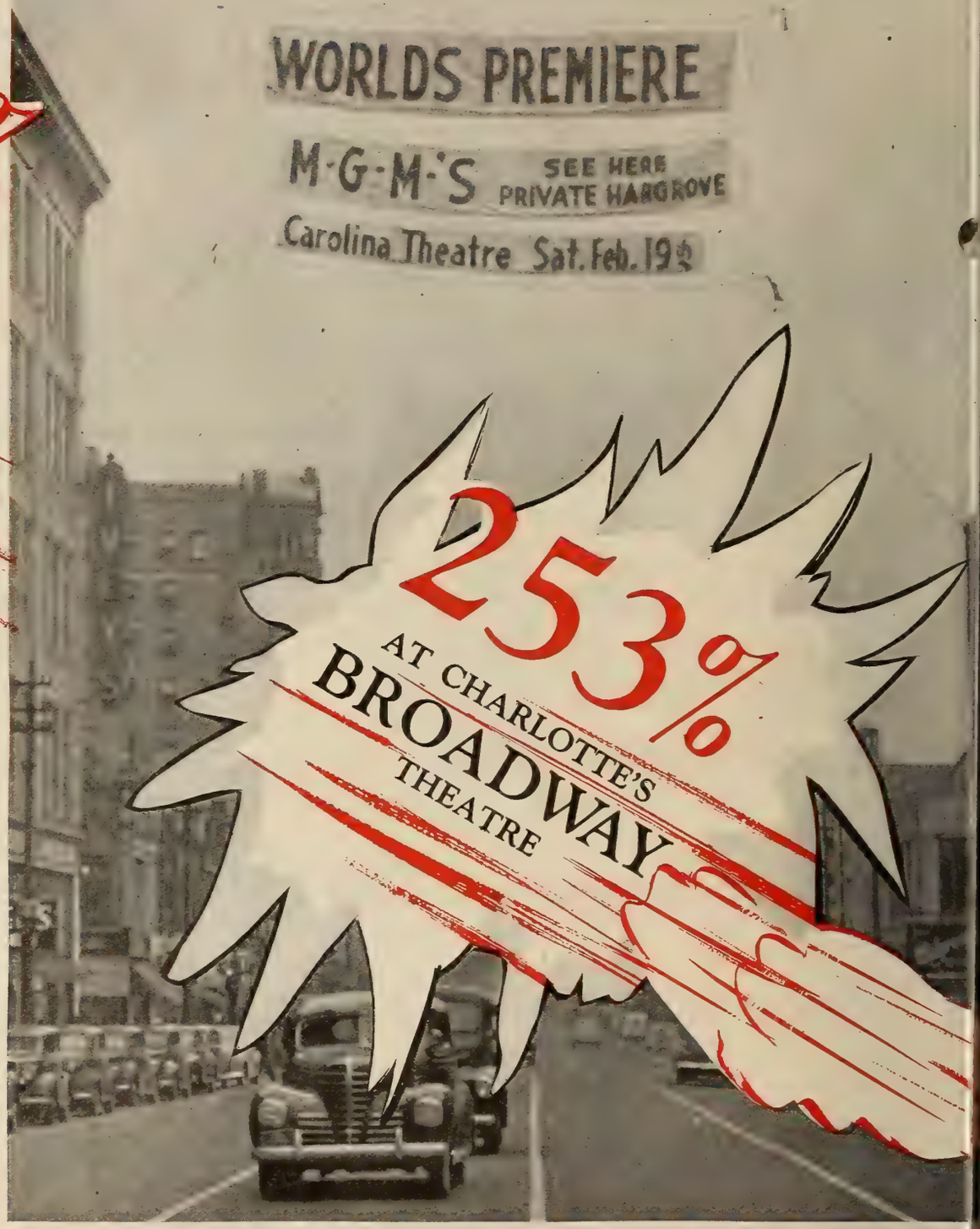
INDEPENDENT: Truly great entertainment. Marks milestone in screen musical history.

COLUMBIA PICTURES

"RED CROSS DRIVE! COLLECT EVERY PERFORMANCE EVERY DAY. MARCH 23rd THRU 29th."

and more to come!

205%
AT CHARLOTTE'S
CAROLINA
THEATRE



253%
AT CHARLOTTE'S
BROADWAY
THEATRE



Laughs of a nation—
Best seller on the screen!

"SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE"
with Robert Walker as "Private Hargrove" and Donna Reed
Keenan Wynn • Robert Benchley • Ray Collins • Chill Wills
Screen Play by Harry Kurnitz • Based Upon the book by Marion Hargrove • Directed by Wesley Ruggles • Produced by George Haight

M-G-M—*naturally!*

"Red Cross Drive! Collect Every Performance Every Day. March 23rd Through 29th"

"SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE"

A 2-Theatre Record-buster in Charlotte, N. C., World Premiere!



205% AT THE CAROLINA!

Extended 8-day run and a new house record topping such hits as "Thousands Cheer," "Salute to the Marines," "Madame Curie," "Girl Crazy" and eclipsing previous record-holder, "Mrs. Miniver," by 117%. Only 3 previous pictures ever played 8 days at this house, "Gone With the Wind," "Mrs. Miniver" and "Random Harvest."

253% AT THE BROADWAY!

By popular demand—5 more days at Charlotte's Broadway Theatre—Forced out by previous stage show booking. Topped such hits as "Salute to the Marines," "The Human Comedy," "Du Barry Was A Lady," "Girl Crazy"—and whizzed by former top grosser, "Random Harvest" by 124%.

Astor Theatre-bound!

Opening for an extended run at famed Broadway show-house

March 21



Films Best Agency To Boost Red Cross, Says Mayor Samuel

(Continued from page 1)

wide rallies during which 15 leading film executives toured the country in behalf of the campaign. Earle W. Swiegert, Paramount district manager and local exhibitor chairman, presided here.

Bernhard said: "Every film man in the country will realize the importance of the Red Cross drive and will take full part in it."

Depinet stated that Government agencies are more and more recognizing the industry's role in the war effort.

From German Camps

Other speakers were: Private Martin Bergman, who recently returned to the United States as an exchange prisoner after spending nine months in German prison camps, and Percy C. Madeira, Jr., president of the Land Title Bank and Trust Co., Philadelphia 1944 Red Cross chairman, and Howard B. Scoggins, ARC field director. Bergman said that he was speaking for every prisoner of war in Europe, all of whom have received aid from the Red Cross.

Also on the dais were: Leon Bamberger, assistant national distributor chairman; R. J. Folliard, RKO district manager, who is WAC distributor chairman for Washington, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh; Charles B. Zagrans, local RKO exchange manager who is local distributor chairman; Frank L. McNamee, War Manpower Commissioner for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, and Al J. Davis, local sales manager for 20th-Fox and president of the local Motion Picture Associates.

New Ruling Spoils 30 Tons of Tickets

(Continued from page 1)

trade is demanding amplification of the validity of the ruling, which has left officials in consternation because the Government had promised recently that there would be no changes of any importance.

New U. S. Tax Rule Hits Ohio Owners

COLUMBUS, O., March 13.—The Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio has notified its members that a new Treasury Department ruling covering Federal admission tax provides that Ohio theatres will no longer be permitted to deduct the state three per cent tax before computing the new Federal tax effective April 1. At a recent exhibitor meeting in the state, it was said that the Federal tax was to be computed on the established price, exclusive of the state tax. It is estimated that this new order will eliminate the ten cent children's admission entirely.

20th Workers Unionize

CLEVELAND, March 13.—All eligible 20th-Fox employees in the local exchange recently became members of Local F-5, according to Dan Cowhig, F-5 business manager. Universal is the only exchange here not unionized.

Philadelphia Exchanges Set as 'Locally Needed'

(Continued from page 1)

exchanges in that city. Sixteen exchanges signed the application representing 543 workers.

Negotiations for obtaining the designation have been going on since Jan. 19, with distributors being represented by Leon J. Bamberger, assistant to Depinet and the War Manpower Commission represented by Milton M. Weiss, technical operations officer, acting for John N. Patterson, area director. Bamberger was aided in the drafting of the petition by A. A. Schubart, manager of exchange operations for RKO.

Only five other activities have heretofore been classified as "locally needed" in Philadelphia. These are laundries and the distribution of milk, coal, fuel oil and food. "Locally needed" activities are those which do not appear on the national index of essential activities, but have been designated "locally needed" by the War Manpower Commission Area and Regional Director because they are determined to be vitally necessary to the health, welfare, and safety of the area or are unable to meet the minimum demand for their services without the special protection afforded by such designation.

Same as 'Essential'

An activity designated as "locally needed" has the same status as an "essential" activity under employment stabilization plans and other WMC commission recruitment and placement programs. The outstanding protection afforded to a "locally needed" designation is represented by the following:

All workers in establishments designated as "locally needed" come within the terms of the employment stabilization plan which prohibits the separation and hiring of a worker by a new employer without a release or a statement of availability issued either by the old employer or by the local War Manpower Commission office. Such release can only be issued in accordance with the provisions of the employment stabilization plan which, basically, are: Discharge of the employe; lay-off of the employe for a period of seven days or more, or for an indefinite period; where the continuation in employment would constitute undue personal hardship for the worker. This refers to the physical condition of the worker as related to his employment, and where the wages or working conditions are sub-standard or in violation of state or Federal regulations.

Applications from activities to be designated as "locally needed" can only be accepted by the WMC in those areas which come under classifications I or II in the current labor situation groups as classified by WMC headquarters in Washington. In areas classified Group I, the labor situation is critical. In areas classified II, the labor situation is imminently critical. Areas presently classified in Group I include, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, Washington and Jacksonville. Among those in Group II are, Albany, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, New Haven, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City, Sioux Falls, Columbus and Charlotte.

Subject to Review

Classifications of labor areas are subject to review at Washington every six months. Depinet states that now that the industry's application for "locally needed" designation has been acted upon favorably by the Philadelphia area WMC office, the next territory in which application will be made will be Pittsburgh. Applications for other areas will be filed as fast as the necessary data can be assembled and meetings arranged.

No area office of the WMC will consider a petition from any industry to be classed as locally needed unless it is signed by establishments representing at least 75 percent of all the workers engaged in that particular industry in that area. Designations are credited to so-called activities and not to individual companies.

Legion Rates 11, One Objectionable

The Mexican film, "Que Hombre tan Simpatico," produced by Films Mundiales, has been judged Class B, objectionable in part, by the Legion of Decency, while 10 have been rated acceptable. "Simpatico" was objected to because of "suggestive costume, dance and song."

In Class A-1, generally acceptable, were "Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble," M-G-M; "Buffalo Bill," 20th Century-Fox; "El Jorbado," FISA; "Hi, Good Lookin'," Universal; "Lady Let's Dance," Monogram; "The Navy Way," Paramount. Class A-2 ratings, unobjectionable for adults, were accorded "The Falcon Out West," RKO; "Sailor's Holiday," Columbia; "Shine On, Harvest Moon," Warners; "You Can't Ration Love," Paramount.

Comerford Gives 401

SCRANTON, Pa., March 13.—Some 401 Comerford employes are now in the armed forces.

Petrillo to Appeal WLB Disk Decision

James C. Petrillo, AFM president, is expected to appeal to the War Labor Board in Washington from the regional WLB panel decision released over the weekend which rejected his union's position against recorded music. The regional decision urged the full WLB in Washington to direct the AFM to have its members return to work for the recording subsidiaries of RCA and Columbia Broadcasting.

Sutton to Republic

DES MOINES, March 13.—H. N. Sutton, former manager of Garbett Theatres in Independence, has joined the Republic sales staff here.

Meltzer Leaves March 24

Resignation of Allan Meltzer, Warners Eastern publicity director, will become effective March 24.

M-G-M's 7th Block Is Reduced to Five

(Continued from page 1)

"Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble," "Gaslight," "Meet the People," "Three Men in White" and "Two Girls and a Sailor."

The M-G-M plan of having branch managers visit the home office in order to familiarize themselves with operations there has again been adopted.

M-G-M will make two of the 26 U. S. Government shorts to be produced by the industry during the year, it was revealed by Fred C. Quimby, head of the short subject department. Quimby left today for his offices at the studio and will not entrain to New York.

"Tunisian Victory" will be sold separately by M-G-M with an aim toward quick and wide circulation, it was stated during the conference today. The picture is slated to open day and date in New York and London on March 24. In New York, it will be shown at the Rialto Theatre, operated by Arthur Mayer.

Balpey Going Up

Jack Balpey, head booker at the M-G-M exchange in Los Angeles, will be promoted to office manager as soon as Gordon Wilson is inducted into the Army, Clayton Lynch, branch manager, stated here. Jack Cooper, third booker at the exchange, also has been classified 1-A. Jack Jacobs, second booker, will be promoted to first booker when Balpey is moved up to office manager. J. Cooperman, formerly with Universal in Philadelphia, has joined the M-G-M Los Angeles booking staff.

Following custom established by Rodgers, leading exhibitors here were guests at a M-G-M luncheon today, among them: James Coston, Alex Halprin, Lou Reinheimer, John, Elmer and Harry Balaban, Arthur and Reuben Schoenstadt, Maurice Rubens, Jack Kirsch, Joe Kaufman, Henry Stickelmaier, John Droney, Jim Balmer, Dave Wallerstein and Al Raymar.

Producers Meet With Second Labor Group

(Continued from page 1)

present at yesterday's sessions included James C. Petrillo, musicians' head; W. L. Hutcheson, carpenters'; Edward Flore, culinary workers; Edward J. Brown, electricians; Jack Gillepsie, teamsters and transportation workers; Joseph Marshall, laborers; and John E. Rooney, plasterers.

Meetings will resume here tomorrow at Casey's office between the producers and IATSE representatives. No definite date has been set for conferences between the producers and the seven AFL locals who are members of the Conference of Studio Unions. Conference representatives headed by Herbert K. Sorrell are in New York awaiting Casey's call to begin discussions with the producers.

'Cover Girl' Luncheon

A fashion show and luncheon will be given by Saks Fifth Avenue tomorrow in the Waldorf-Astoria, to promote Columbia's forthcoming "Cover Girl."


TIME FOR
Spring
Planting
In the Spring, a smart manager's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of Shove—(New customers shoving their way in.) He sows big for big shows. Never mind the onions and turnips. What we're interested in, is something growing around the ticket seller (and we don't mean cobwebs)—something with dough in its hands. So use B&B seeds only. (No, not Benedictine and Brandy—Baby and Box-office.) Plant new billboards out where the folks are bashful spenders. Plant some new lobby ads. Plant heralds in new spots. Then watch the tiny shoots from all, come up and up and finally reach your ticket ledge.—(Long greens.)
COLLECT FOR THE MARCH 23-29
NATIONAL Screen SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

THE Hollywood REPORTER
Wednesday, March 1, 1944

'VOICE IN WIND' ENGROSSING STORY; BRILLIANT PROD.

Ripley-Monter In Impressive Debut

"VOICE IN THE WIND"
(Ripley-Monter-U.A.)

Producer .....Rudolph Monter
Directed by.....Arthur Ripley
Photography .....Dick Fryer
Edited by.....Holbrook Todd

The players: Francis Lederer, Sigrid Gurie, J. Edward Bromberg, J. Carrol Naish, Alexander Granach, David Cota, Olga Fabian, Howard Johnson, Luis Alberni, Jacqueline Dalya.

With "Voice in the Wind," the new producing firm of Arthur Ripley and Rudolph Monter make an impressive debut. From a production standpoint, it is practically flawless, a masterpiece of motion picture craftsmanship which takes full advantage of both technical and human elements with superlative artistry. It instantly establishes Arthur Ripley as a director of the first magnitude. This picture required both technical ability and thoughtful understanding behind the megaphone, capacity for the creation of mood and sustaining it, and for implanting in the players the spirit and purpose of the theme. These needs Ripley realized superbly.

The story, also credited to Ripley, is a strange one, dealing with the hopeless tragedy often faced by refugees from occupied Europe. It approaches this theme from an angle wholly different than has heretofore been employed in pictures. With the exception of the flashback sequences, all the action takes place within a few hours in a fog-bound seaport in the Lesser Antilles, polyglot dumping ground of refugees unable to reach America proper. Here are enacted the final acts in the tragedy of a brilliant young Czech pianist, who escaped from the Gestapo, and the devoted wife from whom he had been separated by his arrest.

The story is told at a deliberate pace in the somber key required of it, aided by artistically-employed low lighting and use of sound and a brilliant musical background which often is startling in its effectiveness, punctuated always by the dismal wail of the fog horn.

Francis Lederer never has given a better performance than he offers as the piano virtuoso, while Sigrid Gurie also registers her finest work as his wife. In the more than capable hands of J. Edward Bromberg, J. Carrol Naish, Alexander Granach and Olga Fabian, the principal character roles are developed brilliantly. Howard Johnson is excellent as the German officer who brings about Lederer's arrest, with Luis Alberni and David Cota also registering favorably. Jacqueline Dalya scores in the brief role of the Portuguese girl.

The musical background score is a top credit for Michel Michelet. The concert piano numbers are performed so brilliantly as to arouse regret there were no more of them. Dick Fryer handled an exacting photographic assignment with telling effect.

Opening at the
VICTORIA THEATRE, NEW YORK
...March 15th!
in the *United Artists* manner!

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DO NOT REMOVE

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 52 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1944 TEN CENTS

7 More Suits On Percentage Reports Filed

Distributors Ask Damage In Pittsburgh Actions

PITTSBURGH, March 14.—Seven major distributors filed suits in Federal District court here today against William Finkel and the Carson Amusement Co., as alleged operators of the local Arcade and Colonial theatres, charging that they furnished the plaintiffs "intentionally false and incorrect written statements of gross receipts" on percentage picture played at the two houses.

Similar actions were filed in the Federal District court at Boston by the eight major distributors recently against E. M. Loew, independent circuit operator, and other actions of the kind are understood to be in preparation for filing in other parts of the country.

The actions filed here allege that Finkel "induced checkers to join with

(*Continued on page* 13)

Nat'l Theatres Sets 2d 'Skouras Drive'

PALM SPRINGS, Cal., March 14.—Review of the company's war efforts and discussion of operating policies, taxes and plans for a Spring drive to be known as the second "Charles P. Skouras Drive," were discussed by 35 representatives of National Theatres at the circuit's annual meeting here. The meetings, which opened last Thursday, closed today. Charles P. Skouras, president, presided at all sessions.

Speakers at today's sessions were Skouras, F. H. Ricketson, Jr., Elmer

(*Continued on page* 13)

Majors Ask Quashing Of Griffith Summons

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 14.—Three major film distributors have filed motions in Western Oklahoma Federal District Court in the $606,000 damage suit brought against the Griffith Theatre interests by A. B. Momand. Shawnee independent, and two additional plaintiffs.

Two of the co-defendant companies, Universal Pictures Corp. and Paramount Pictures, Inc., filed motions asking that their summons be quashed. D. I. Johnson, attorney for Universal,

(*Continued on page* 13)

Income Tax Fails To Dent Grosses At B'way Houses

Both new arrivals and holdovers are scoring handsomely at downtown first-run houses here this week with March 15 income tax payments having little effect on grosses this year in view of the pay-as-you-go system. The second week of "Up In Arms" and a stage show at Radio City Music Hall will yield about $113,500, with $73,500 registered on the first four days. It will be close to the opening week's $115,000, and will hold over.

"The Purple Heart" and a stage show headed by Count Basie and his band and Carol Bruce and Zero Mostel are doing top business on their first week at the Roxy; $103,000 is

(*Continued on page* 8)

Committee to Act On Union Demands

Proposals formulated by representatives of the seven American Federation of Labor studio locals which are signatories to the studio basic labor agreement were presented to the producers and their labor heads at yesterday's sessions at the office here of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, and were referred to a sub-committee for negotiation. This committee, consisting of representatives of both producers and the unions will meet at Casey's office this morning to start definite action thereon.

The proposals are believed to in-

(*Continued on page* 13)

Western Gas Ration Is Slashed by OPA

Washington, March 14.—Gasoline rations in the Middle and Far West were today reduced by the Office of Price Administration to conform more closely to those allowed in the 17 Eastern states and the District of Columbia.

The new schedule, which goes into effect March 22, will reduce the basic "A" ration from three to two gallons a week. Rations of "B" drivers also will be reduced on the West Coast from 460 to 400 miles a month.

Adopt RKO Option And Pension Plans

DOVER, Del., March 14.—Resolutions approving and ratifying the action of the RKO board of directors in establishing a pension trust plan for eligible employes and approving option agreements for the purchase of 50,000 shares of RKO common stock each by N. Peter Rathvon, president; Ned E. Depinet and Charles W. Koerner, vice-presidents, were adopted at a special meeting of the company's stockholders held here today.

Details of the employes' pension trust plan, which must be approved by the Treasury Department by Dec. 31, 1944, before it can be put into effect, were published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY of Jan. 4 and March 8.

The stock options for the three principal executives of the company were described in MOTION PICTURE DAILY of March 7.

Revised War Labor Draft May Ease Raw Stock Cuts

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Selective Service policies under which draft boards throughout the country are skeletonizing occupational deferments, threatening to make it impossible for some plants, including those engaged in the manufacture of raw stock, to keep up war production, are expected to be amended within the next day or two as a result of representations to President Roosevelt by War Manpower Director Paul V. McNutt and War Production Board Chairman Donald M. Nelson.

The new labor draft was revealed yesterday by MOTION PICTURE DAILY to be endangering the lifting of raw

(*Continued on page* 13)

Stress War Effort Aid at M-G-M Meet

CHICAGO, March 14.—William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, pointed out the necessity for all staff members to give time and effort to war activities at the meeting of sales personnel here today. He stressed the fact that where M-G-M men were not on committees they should help other exchangemen to make the industry's job an accomplished one.

H. M. Richey, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, also spoke on WAC

(*Continued on page* 13)

69 War-Plant Areas Require New Theatres

21 More Localities In Need of Houses

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Opportunities for the construction of eight new theatres in seven localities in Michigan, three in New Jersey, eight in Pennsylvania and three in Virginia were revealed here tonight by Maurice M. Green, consultant to the Office of Civilian Requirements' recreation bureau, which is currently surveying the country to determine theatre and other recreational needs in war-and-defense manufacturing and military areas.

This brings to 69 the number of war-plant areas found to be lacking film exhibition facilities, adding to the 47 reported in *Motion Picture Daily* on March 8.

A field office report on Michigan, Green said, showed the need for

(*Continued on page* 13)

De Havilland Wins Suit on Contract

LOS ANGELES, March 14.—A precedent-establishing ruling affecting studios' contractual relations with players and other employes was handed down here today by Superior Judge Charles Burnell when he found in favor of Olivia De Havilland in her suit seeking termination of a seven-year contract with Warners.

Judge Burnell held the contract terminated May 5, 1943, seven years from

(*Continued on page* 13)

U. A. Gets Its First Foreign 'Showcase'

Launching its plan of operating key theatres for "showcase" purposes in foreign countries, United Artists has acquired the Astral Theatre, Bogota, Colombia, it was disclosed here yesterday by Walter Gould, foreign manager. The house, a 900 seater, will be closed for redecoration for an Easter opening of this first U.A. foreing "showcase" acquisition.

Len Daly, U.A.'s foreign publicity representative, left yesterday by plane for Botoga to handle the opening exploitation campaign under the supervision of Sam Seidelman, Latin-American supervisor, who is flying up from Buenos Aires.

Personal Mention

JAMES MULVEY, vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., will leave for Hollywood on Friday.

•

CPO LEONARD S. SCHLESINGER, former Warner theatre executive in New York, has been promoted to Lt. (j. g.), Civil Engineers Corps, U. S. Naval Reserve, and is leaving today for the West Coast.

•

LT. ROBERT BLOTCKY, former Paramount Buffalo exchange booker, has been promoted to captain in the anti-aircraft artillery division somewhere in the South Pacific.

•

LARRY KENT, executive assistant to SPYROS SKOURAS, 20th Century-Fox president, has arrived in London, according to a cable received here.

•

LESLIE F. WHELAN, 20th Century-Fox foreign publicity director, is en route to the Coast for a two weeks' stay.

•

ARTHUR PRATCHETT, Paramount general manager for Mexico and Central America, arrived in New York yesterday for a 10-day visit.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warner Eastern division sales manager, will arrive in Cincinnati today and will visit Cleveland later.

•

WILLIAM J. HEINEMAN, general sales manager for SAMUEL GOLDWYN, will return today from a two and a half-month sales tour.

•

AL BALSKO, manager of Warners' Symphony Theatre, Chicago, reports the birth of a second son, ROBERT F.

•

ARTHUR GOTTLIEB, head of Du-Art Film Laboratories, returned yesterday from Florida.

•

SAM E. MORRIS, Warner theatre executive, will return today from a four-week Coast trip.

•

BOB HICKEY, RKO field publicist, is enroute to Des Moines, Omaha and Denver.

•

H. M. BESSEY, Altec Service vice-president, has returned to New York from a trip to New England.

•

TERRY TURNER, RKO exploitation manager, has returned from a six weeks' trip through the middle West.

•

FRED MEYERS, Universal Eastern sales manager, is in Boston today and will be in New Haven tomorrow.

•

A. J. O'KEEFE, Universal's Western sales manager, left yesterday for Chicago.

•

L. POPE of Fox Midwest, Kansas City, was a Chicago visitor this week.

•

JAMES MCCARTHY, Hartford Strand Theatre manager, is on vacation.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, March 14

A WIDE assortment of curious eyes are glued to the box-office performance of "The Purple Heart." This is the attraction which is of interest on several counts.

For one, it marks the return of Darryl F. Zanuck to production after his active service in the Signal Corps. For another, it was produced while the War Department had the screws tightened on any scenes showing, or suggesting, Japanese atrocities inflicted on American prisoners-of-war; thus, its very making is construable as a defiance of official attitudes, or, at the very least, a challenge of those attitudes.

Between time of launching, and time of completion, however, the infamous "March of Death" account was released formally and the atrocity ban imposed last November was relaxed.

■

Chiefly, important interest here gravitates around the picture and what it will establish, pro or con, as a grosser. "The Purple Heart," already reviewed is a powerful and unrelenting, attraction, with more of the characteristics of a documentary than a straight entertainment job.

It is apart from all other contenders because it is the first of its type and, in that respect, sounds off on a new pattern in story approaches. If it proves a big money film, the inevitable again will assert itself. In all probability there will be others, but Zanuck's film will have completed its tour of the bases first as the initialer over the unexplored plate.

■

Men of weight in production, it ought to be reported for the facts, appear to agree "The Purple Heart" will be an attraction of size. In no wise identified with 20th Century-Fox, they offer this as their self-arrived opinion, and predicate their analysis solely on a twin appraisal.

Firstly, because this one is the first of its type to break after official publication of Japanese inhumanities.

Secondly, because the attraction has unquestionable merit as drama. It's stark. It's brutal. But it's good.

Cancellations under whatever form of consent decree finally emerges are no worry to one national sales manager, at least. He maintains—and soundly, we hold—that the key is the merchandise.

"The good ones will get the dates and the bad ones won't. The records of any national distributor will bear this out. Those records, moreover, will reveal how surprisingly low bookings can fall, even with the best of us.

"The answer is simple: Love will find a way."

Love *on* celluloid is hardly new. Love *and* celluloid is, however.

■ ■

The recent big-league luncheon for Charlie Skouras rolled up laughs not hitherto reported. Here are some:

Eddie Cantor, master-of-ceremonies, picked upon Rabbi Edgar Magnin with this:

"The Cantors and the Rabbis have been together for a long time."

And:

"This is really a happy occasion. Sam Goldwyn has been seated at the dais for over an hour and there hasn't been a single argument."

Guffaws, including Goldwyn's.

■

Joe Schenck reminded Cantor of the old People's Vaudeville days and how he had engaged Eddie to play the circuit—four houses in two weeks at $20 for three days, pro rata.

Cantor reminded how Schenck asked if he had a new act for a return date. Eddie changed a few words, did the same routine again. Schenck thought the second act was better than the first.

■

Schenck praised Skouras loftily. "I have always supported Charlie Skouras down through the years."

When it came to Y. Frank Freeman, he said, "Joe Schenck is not the only producer who has supported Skouras. The record shows we all have."

■

Eddie narrated how Charlie influenced four telephone girls at the Sherry-Netherlands in New York to put through his long distance calls during the War Loan drive. "He gave them nylons. When Secretary Morgenthau called, it was not to compliment Charlie on the drive. He wanted to know where Skouras got the nylons."

Cross-Examination Of Peskay Started

NEW HAVEN, March 14.—Direct examination of E. J. Peskay, former operator of the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, was completed here this morning in the trial of the anti-trust suit brought by Prefect Theatres and others, and cross examination started this afternoon, to continue for about two days.

Final effect of the direct examination, conducted by Saul Rogers, was an effort to show that contracts Peskay signed with major distributors were practically identical in their language on clearance, giving him product 14 days after Stamford and seven days after Portchester during 1935-1941.

The cross-examination, conducted by Joseph Berry, has so far proceeded along the lines of attempting to show, apparently, that Peskay himself sought to obtain maximum clearance for Skouras Theatres when he was employed by them in 1933.

McNutt, Others at 'Main St.' Opening

What M-G-M describes as "the most ambitious short subjects promotion ever undertaken" will be the world premiere March 20 of its two-reeler, "Main Street Today," in Meriden, Conn., the city selected by the War Manpower Commission as "America's ideal war community."

WMC chairman Paul V. McNutt and Washington WMC staff members will join a press party of 30 leaving here Monday for Meriden where the party will be welcomed by Mayor Francis R. Danaher, U. S. Senator John A. Danaher, Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin and WMC officials. The party will tour Meriden's war plants and attend a dinner with 400 local business-men and leaders.

Premiere will be held at Loew-Poli's.

Warner Executives Confer on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, March 14.—Following the arrival of Ben Kalmenson, Samuel Schneider and Mort Blumenstock from New York, Warner studio and home office executives have started a week of conferences with Harry M. and Jack L. Warner and Charles Einfeld. Norman Moray, short subjects sales manager, will arrive tomorrow to meet with Jack Warner and Gordon Hollingshead, short subject production chief.

Home office officials met two new WB producers today, Arthur Schwartz and Alex Gottlieb. Previewed were "Rhapsody in Blue," "Between Two Worlds" and "Uncertain Glory."

Unions Report May 15

Labor unions, including guilds and unions in the motion picture field, will be required to file financial statements with the U. S. Treasury on May 15 and not today as inadvertently stated in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday through a typographical error.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Drives Place Industry in New Light

600 New York Houses Pledge Drive Support

Six hundred theatres in Metropolitan New York are pledged to give full support to make the March 23-29 Red Cross motion picture week the biggest collection ever, it was stated yesterday by Sam Rinzler and Fred Schwartz, co-chairmen of the exhibitors' division for this city.

All theatres will display all material supplied in the Red Cross kit and in addition will use flags and valances; managers are planning special activities to bring home to the public the great work and great need of the Red Cross; all houses will fly the Red Cross flag and stage show theatres will have special Red Cross offerings; all boroughs of the city have cooperatively arranged for parades and other activities.

Characteristic Support

Meanwhile, the War Activities Committee here yesterday reported that RKO theatres throughout the country have indicated in their reports that they will give the forthcoming Red Cross drive the same support which has characterized every war effor to date, it was indicated, following a checkup by E. L. Alperson of individual theatres' plans and progress to date in the campaign.

In those cities where there are stage shows, such as Boston, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and San Francisco, the managers will stage Red Cross tableaux.

From Detroit came word that every conceivable showmanship angle to draw the public's attention to the campaign is being utilized by Moe Duddleson, distributor chairman.

Daily Collections For Memphis Houses

MEMPHIS, March 14.—The Red Cross drive here was opened with a big parade on Main Street. All theatres will make collections at every performance daily, Cecil E. Vogel, publicity chairman here reports.

A. H. Blank Reports 80% of Pledges Already Received

DES MOINES, March 14.—Eighty percent of the theatres participating in the 1944 Red Cross drive in the Des Moines area already are pledged to give full support to the drive, A. H. Blank, state chairman for the motion picture industry's campaign, reveals here.

Film salesmen travelling through the state all this week are contacting the remaining 20 percent, and Blank says that it is only a matter of days when they will have secured the balance of 100 percent in pledges in this territory.

An intensive campaign is under way to secure collections at every performance in each of the theatres, with the Red Cross trailer to be given preferred spots on the program. At a state meeting held here, Blank called on exhibitors to triple last year's collections. All Tri-States, Central States and RKO-Singer Theatres are pledged 100 percent for collections at every show. Local Red Cross chapters also are cooperating.

$140,000 Paramount Red Cross Donation

Paramount Pictures, Inc., and its theatre partnerships will make a $140,000 combined corporate contribution to the 1944 Red Cross War Fund, president Barney Balaban announced here yesterday. The amount will be allocated through home office, the Hollywood studio, exchanges and circuits.

Independent of the corporate contribution, Balaban said, Paramount is assigning to the Red Cross an additional $16,000 of revenue from the "America Speaks" series of "Victory Shorts," which were made available to exhibitors at one dollar per reel with the commitment that all balances over production and print cost would go to "some worthy war charity." This fund will be divided among exchanges and the gift will be made in the name of exhibitors.

Baltimore Houses Over-Subscribe

Baltimore, March 14.—Of 15 theatres first reporting advance subscriptions to Baltimore's 1944 Red Cross war fund, 12 have over-subscribed their quotas, John T. Menzies, campaign chairman reports here. Theatre solicitation is being conducted among 46 local houses by a special committee under chairmanship of C. Elmer Nolte, Jr.

Theatres reporting oversubscriptions are the Aero, Goldfield, Flaks, Ideal, Irvington, Lord Baltimore, New, New Essex, Elektra, Overlea, Pic and York.

Top Coast Brackets To Boost Red Cross

Chairman Frank Carothers of the industry's Hollywood Red Cross campaign, has called a special meeting of industry representatives of upper income bracket groups for tomorrow at the Paramount studio office of Y. Frank Freeman to discuss means for increasing contributions to the studios' "Invasion Year" Red Cross drive. In addition to studio business managers, Mark Sandrich, chairman of the Permanent Charities Committee; Lester Cole of the Screen Writers' Guild; David Butler of the Screen Directors' Guild; George Murphy of the Screen Actors' Guild and Freeman as head of the producer executive group, will participate.

Carothers also reports a tightening up of drive efforts among studio unions. Also set for tomorrow is a luncheon at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for a second report meeting of M-G-M executive chiefs.

Citations for Theatres

Red, white and blue citations, suitable for framing, have been prepared for each theatre to be given as soon as Red Cross drive pledges are received, the WAC here reports.

Bernhard Says Theatres Are Civic Asset

"The war has revealed the motion picture industry in a new light to the American people; the Treasury Department now regards us as indispensable to every war loan drive," Joseph Bernhard, Warner executive and chairman of the industry's Red Cross drive participation, stated here yesterday. "No Government agency that requires the cooperation or assistance of the home front sets up a campaign without including our assistance as one of the important phases of its appeal," he added in citing the key part of the industry in moving the Red Cross drive to its 1944 goal of $200,000,000.

Industry Into Its Own

"As a result of the gathering of scrap metal and rubber, spreading information about fuel, reclaiming fats, etc., in town after town, the individual showman has become a member of every important committee doing local war jobs." In many cases local committees do not begin to lay out campaigns until they have asked the local showman for directions, suggestions and advice. The industry is coming into its own as a civic institution in cities, towns and villages throughout the nation. Our help has not only been vital, but generous," said Bernhard, adding:

"With the reputation the industry has established for giving such aid and comfort to the home front, the National Red Cross asked the War Activities Committee to play an important role in its campaign to raise $200,000,000 minimum this year."

Albany Red Cross Luncheon Meeting

ALBANY, March 14.—Exhibitor and distributor representatives in the Upstate area will convene at an industry Red Cross luncheon rally here tomorrow at the De Witt Clinton Hotel. Red Cross officials and workers will be guests.

Industry Executives Tour Country for Drive



E. L. Alperson



Joseph Bernhard



Harry Brandt



Ned Depinet



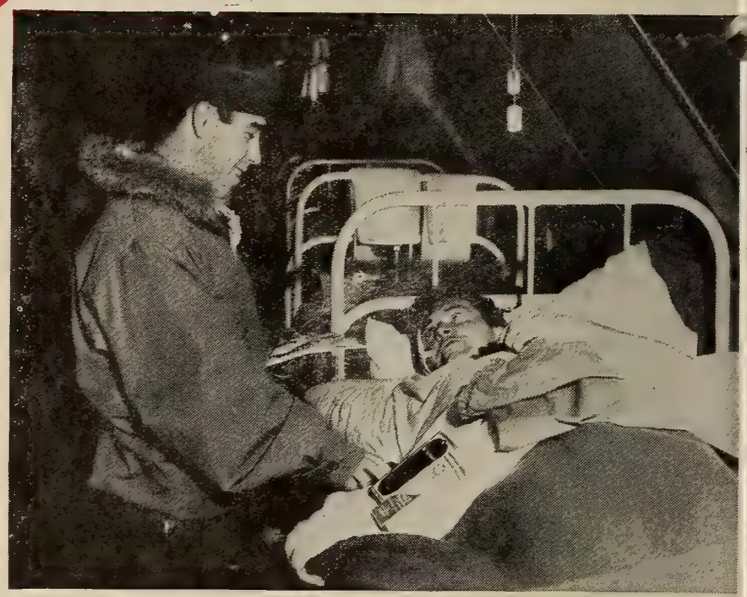
Sam Dembow

Somewhere in Sicily...



American Red Cross Hospital Worker serves refreshments to injured soldiers at evacuation hospital.

Somewhere in the Aleutians...



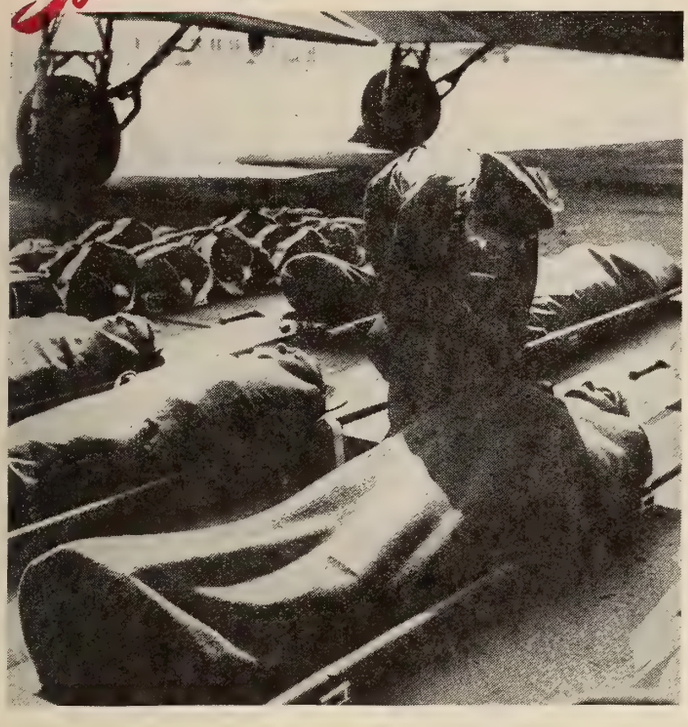
American Red Cross Field Director visits hospitals; learns needs and wants of the men.

Here's what RED CROSS HOSPITAL SERVICE includes: Hostess Service • Sponsoring Entertainment • Sponsoring Parties • Shopping Service Motor Transportation • Library Service • Occupational Therapy • Letter Writing • Holiday Service Reading • Instruction • Hobbies

Everywhere

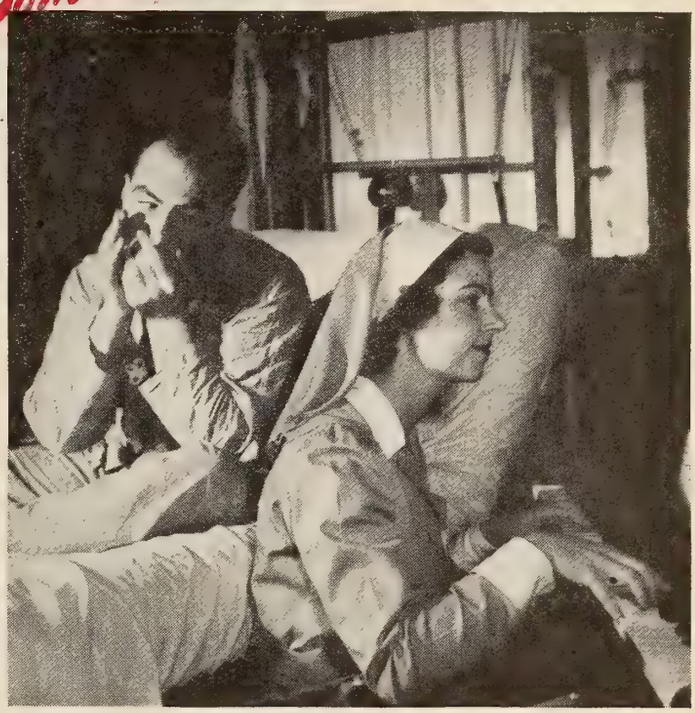
1944 MOTION PICTURE THEATRES

Somewhere in Australia...



Air Evacuation Nurse makes last check-up before patients are loaded on hospital-bound troop carrier.

Somewhere in Washington, D.C.



Gray Lady and soldier play their favorite arrangement of "Sleepy Lagoon."

in America...

THEATRE EXHIBITORS will do their share to further the cause of the AMERICAN RED CROSS by getting behind the fund-raising campaign ***... with collections at every performance!***

RED CROSS WEEK MARCH 23rd thru 29th

This advertisement contributed by Columbia Pictures Corporation



THIS COULD BE YOUR BOY...
IT COULD BE YOUR BLOOD..

IT IS YOUR RED CROSS..

Through the Red Cross you are at his side . . . in New Guinea, Greenland, England, Italy . . . wherever our fighting men are. *Your* blood gives him new life . . . *you* give him new hope through hospital and convalescent services . . . *you* are with him in enemy prison camps . . . in welfare and recreational activities *you* keep his morale high.

YOU ARE THE RED CROSS . . . yours the proud privilege to serve your country and its fighting men.

YOU CANNOT FAIL THEM!

MOTION PICTURE THEATRES RED CROSS WEEK

March 23rd to 29th

Take A Collection At Every Performance

This advertisement contributed by Paramount Pict... Inc.



RKO, Universal, Loew, Monogram Stocks Traded

PHILADELPHIA, March 14.—Rotary Electric Steel Co., Jersey City, was disclosed today to have been the holder of a large block of Radio-Keith-Orpheum stock, the greater part of which has been transferred to the Atlas Corp. The monthly summary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, issued this morning, showed that the steel company in January transferred 344,998 shares of RKO common and 3,227 shares of preferred to Atlas, leaving it with 232 shares of common and three shares of preferred stock, increasing Atlas holdings to 1,329,02 shares of common and 56,398 of preferred. Atlas also holds 327,812 warrants of the common.

Depinet Sells His Preferred

The report also showed the sale by Ned E. Depinet of 100 shares of RKO preferred, leaving him with none; 800 shares of preferred by Floyd B. Odlum, also his entire personal holdings and 100 shares of preferred by N. Peter Rathvon, leaving him with 100 shares. J. Miller Walker was shown to have disposed of his holding of 120 shares of preferred by selling 35 shares and making a gift of 85 shares.

Reports on Universal Pictures showed that in December Nate Blumberg received 5,000 common voting trust certificate warrants as compensation, increasing his holdings to 19,000, and that 3,000 warrants were similarly secured by Joseph H. Seidelman, who in September disposed of a similar number by gift. They also showed that Charles R. Rogers sold 100 warrants in July and 10,000 in October, leaving him with 9,900, while in the latter month Daniel M. Sheaffer sold 500 common voting trust certificates, leaving him with 18,200 held direct and 26,500, together with 111,283 warrants held through Standard Capital Co.

Gift to Ritchey

The SEC also reported that Norton V. Ritchey of Monogram Pictures received 1,000 shares of that company's common in January as a gift from Bessie N. Ritchey, increasing his holdings to 4,268 shares, and that Loew's, Inc., purchased 295 shares of Loew's Boston Theatres common stock, giving it a total of 120,630 shares.

Reports on holdings of persons becoming officers or directors of registered companies showed that William J. German, New York, held no Universal Pictures securities when he joined its directorate Jan. 31.

3 'U' First-Runs

Universal's "Chip Off the Old Block," starring Donald O'Connor, will open tomorrow at Broadway Capitol, replacing "The Bridge of San Luis Rey." With the opening today of "Ladies Courageous" at the Criterion and "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" at the Palace, Universal will, for the first time, have three features playing simultaneously at Broadway first-runs.

Le Tempt Dies

SAN ANTONIO, March 14.—Homer Le Tempt, 41, manager of the Aztec Theatre and connected with Interstate Circuit 10 years, died here recently.

'Gung Ho' Riding High with $17,000

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Business was off here this week despite good weather. "Song of Russia," in its second downtown week, should hit about $8,500. RKO-Keith's, however, should be the top grosser, accounting for $17,000 with "Gung Ho."

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 16:

"Rationing" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S CAPITOL—(3,434) (28c-39c-44c-66c) 7 days. On stage: "Miniatures." Gross: $21,000. (Average: $22,000).

"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S COLUMBIA—(1,234) (30c-50c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,200).

"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNER'S EARLE—(2,210) (30c-40c-50c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. On stage: Marie Nash, Roxyettes. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $19,700).

"Gung-Ho" (Univ.)
RKO-KEITH'S—(1,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $13,600).

"The Desert Song" (WB)
WARNER'S METROPOLITAN—(1,600) (30c-44c) 7 days, 3rd downtown week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,200).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S PALACE—(2,242) (28c-55c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $19,000).

Preview Set for 'Follow the Boys'

Universal's "Follow the Boys" will be previewed March 27 at the Palace here. Benny Roberts and his orchestra will occupy the pit they played from in vaudeville's hey-day at the Palace. Joe Laurie, Jr., will be master of ceremonies.

A Coast-to-Coast broadcast will be a feature. Among those invited are: Joan Davis, Jack Pearl, Jimmy Durante, Fred Allen, Lionel Atwill, Bill Robinson, Kate Smith, Bert Lytell, Bert Lahr, Lou Holtz, Ethel Merman, Irving Berlin, Ted Lewis and Jack Haley.

Johnston Reception By A. C. Bromberg

ATLANTA, March 14.—W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram, was guest here today at a luncheon and reception at the Capitol City Club given by Arthur C. Bromberg, the company's Southeastern distributor. Johnston was honored for his 30 years in the industry. Exhibitors and the press attended.

Johnston will next visit Monogram branches in Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis and Dallas enroute to Hollywood headquarters.

Mills Opens Office

Edwin Claude Mills, for many years Ascap's general manager here; chairman of the board of the Music Publisher's Protective Association, and executive director of the Song Writers' Protective Association, has opened an office at 630 Fifth Avenue to serve in a general consulting and advisory capacity in matters relating to commercial usages of copyrighted musical works.

Services for Marsh

Funeral services for William Marsh, traveling auditor for Loew's, Inc., will be held today at the Halsey Funeral Parlors, Westwood, N. J. Marsh, who had been with Loew's since 1928, died at the weekend.

$1,195,000 Quota For Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, March 14.—Trailers announcing the date of the Red Cross drive and the city quota of $1,195,000 have been attached to the War Activities Committee's Red Cross film, "At His Side." Arrangements have been made to obtain the services of 75 speakers who will talk from the stages of theatres in the city and vicinity. A giant kick-off rally was held at the Municipal Auditorium with practically all of the 14,000 seats filled. Speaker was Hal Boyle, AP correspondent who has been at the front.

Already over 360 theatres in this area are pledged to make collections at every performance every day, the largest number ever signed up in this territory for any drive.

The local Red Cross chapter and National Screen Service have supplied materials for lobby decorations in all theatres. Volunteer Red Cross nurses will assist in making theatre collections.

The local theatre committee consists of Elmer Rhoden, chairman; Senn Lawler, Arthur Cole, Jerry Zigmond, Charlie Potter and Stanley Schwartz.

SLRB Vote on New RKO Union Claims

RKO circuit heads are understood to have indicated a desire for a State Labor Relations Board election at a hearing here yesterday before the board on the petition of the newly-formed Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers, Assistants and Cashiers Guild to be designated as collective bargaining agent for all New York RKO managers, assistants and cashiers.

The union, which is without AFL or CIO affiliation, is said to have almost 85 percent of RKO house workers as members.

Show Clears $80,000 For Jewish Charity

The benefit "Show of Shows" played to a capacity audience at Madison Square Garden here Monday night, grossing $100,000, with $80,000 net to be turned over to the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

William Gaxton, chairman of the entertainment committee, was master of ceremonies, introducing stars of screen, stage, radio and night clubs. Bob Weitman of the Paramount Theatre, handled much of the staging job, with Sammy Rauch also credited with contributing.

'Mabel's Room' Screening

"Up in Mabel's Room," Edward Small production which will be released by United Artists, will be screened at Loew's Sheridan Theatre on Monday, March 20, at 8:30 p.m. Prior to the screening, a dinner will be given for the press at the Brevoort Hotel.

Jersey Allied Dinner

Allied of New Jersey will hold its annual Spring "get-together" and beefsteak March 22 at Harry Hecht's Ritz Restaurant, Passaic. Members of all branches of the industry have been invited.

Income Tax Fails To Dent Grosses At B'way Houses

(*Continued from page* 1)

expected and the bill will hold over. The third week of "Lady In the Dark" and a stage show featuring Xavier Cugat at the Paramount will gross $95,000 and the bill will continue. Initial week of "Shine On Harvest Moon," with Russ Morgan and band and Borrah Minevitch's Harmonica Rascals on the stage, at the Strand, are headed for $55,000 and will hold over. "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," with Will Osborne and band and Larry Adler heading the stage bill, will yield the Capitol about $47,000 on the second and final week. Universal's "Chip Off the Old Block," will open tomorrow with the same stage bill set to continue.

'Song' On Upswing

Business at the Rivoli for "The Song Of Bernadette" is up on its seventh week, with $50,000 expected, to better the sixth week's receipts. The picture will continue. The final eight days of "Standing Room Only" at the Criterion is expected to yield $22,000, at the end of the third week. Universal's release of Walter Wanger's "Ladies Courageous" will open at the Criterion today. "Passage To Marseille" will do approximately $22,000 on its fourth week at the Hollywood and will continue. The Astor with "Lifeboat" in its ninth week expects to gross $14,000. The film will end its run on Sunday with M-G-M's "See Here, Private Hargrove" opening next Tuesday.

$17,000 for 'Uninvited'

The fourth and final week of "The Uninvited" at the Globe is expected to get upwards of $17,000. Republic's "The Fighting Seabees" will open at the Globe on Saturday. The final six days of "Jack London" at the Palace will gross approximately $12,500; Universal's "Ali Baba And the Forty Thieves" will open there today. The Soviet's "No Greater Love" will do about $7,800 on its final six days of a third week at the New Victoria, United Artist's "Voice In the Wind" opening there today. The second week of "The Curse of the Cat People" at the Rialto is expected to yield about $8,000; RKO's "The Falcon Out West" will open at the Rialto Friday.

Western Electric Cites 7 for Bravery

Western Electric has awarded a bronze Vail Medal to seven company employes for acts of heroism performed last year.

Among those cited were Louis G. Delyon (posthumously), Alfred H. Gerlach, Alexander Mikolasy, William Mohrhoff, Louis J. Rom and William C. Neals. Marshall Boyd received a special citation.

'Belle' Showing Set

"Memphis Belle," U. S. Eighth Air Force's four-reel Technicolor film being distributed by Paramount for the OWI will be tradeshown tomorrow at 11 A.M. at the home office.

BROADWAY RHYTHM

"Technicolor treat. Packed with ace talent. Sweet box-office tune!"—FILM DAILY

"Brilliant. Packed with what today's ticket-shoppers clamor for."—MOTION PICTURE DAILY

"Bill-topper."—VARIETY "Headed for high grosses."—BOXOFFICE "Has everything"—HOL. REPORTER

M-G-MUSIC!



LOOK UNDER THE FLAP AND THEN LOOK HERE


"BROADWAY RHYTHM"
GEORGE MURPHY
GINNY SIMMS
with
CHARLES WINNINGER
GLORIA DeHAVEN
LENA HORNE
Eddie "ROCHESTER" Anderson
HAZEL SCOTT
NANCY WALKER BEN BLUE
TOMMY DORSEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA
BROADWAY RHYTHM
ALL THIS— AND TECHNICOLOR TOO
M-G-M MAGIC!
The Company that made Thousands Cheer now makes Millions Shout HOORAY!

BROADWAY RHYTHM

"Technicolor treat. Packed with ace talent. Sweet box-office tune!"—FILM DAILY

"Brilliant. Packed with what today's ticket-shoppers clamor for."—MOTION PICTURE DAILY

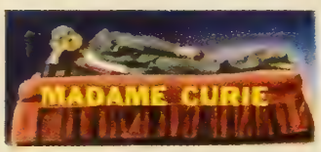
"Bill-topper."—VARIETY "Headed for high grosses."—BOXOFFICE "Has everything"—HOL. REPORTER

M-G-MUSIC!



LOOK UNDER THE FLAP AND THEN LOOK HERE















SOFT BERTH!















"Red Cross Drive! Collect Every Performance Every Day. March 23rd Through March 29th."

69 War-Plant Areas Require New Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

new houses in Belleville, Ypsilanti (one white and one colored), Wayne, Inkster, Garden City, South Lyon and South East Dearborn.

Several houses were reported as needed in outlying areas of Philadelphia and in Delaware county, around Chester, Pa., near new housing projects, and in Harrisburg, and single houses are required for Hatsboro, High Spire, Bristol, Lancaster and Middletown, Pa. In New Jersey, Pedricktown was reported as offering opportunity for two or more theatres, and new houses were suggested also for Millville and Bridgeton. The Virginia locations are Norfolk, Portsmouth and Newport News.

Applicants for authority to construct new theatres were urged to take their applications up with the OCR representative at their nearest field office.

Committees Set Up

The committees, on which WPB, Army, Navy, War Manpower Commission and other Federal agencies are represented, and with which the OCR field men are in continuous contact, have been set up in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Ore.; Seattle, Detroit, Akron, Hartford, Cleveland, Buffalo and Pittsburgh; no theatres can be built in the labor areas of those cities without committee approval.

The San Francisco committee, Green said, has approved the building of a theatre in Richmond, Cal., which was turned down some time ago because of a critical labor situation which since has eased somewhat.

Stress War Effort Aid at M-G-M Meet

(Continued from page 1)

activities. William R. Ferguson, exploitation manager, discussed plans for observing the company's 20 years in business and outlined advertising and promotion on forthcoming M-G-M pictures.

A second topic discussed by Rodgers was the rental of films. He said, "The time is fast approaching when rental terms will be calculated only after taking into consideration the operating expense of a theatre." This conclusion was the result of two days of analysis of every territory, with the opinions of all field sources being sought.

Nat'l Theatres Sets 2nd 'Skouras Drive'

(Continued from page 1)

Rhoden, Frank Newman, Harold Fitzgerald, B. V. Sturdivant and George Bowser. On Monday the representatives discussed population trends in territories where National operates. Skouras presented bonus checks to NT leaders of the recent Skouras drive which ended Jan. 1. Ricketson, president of Fox-Intermountain, was first and George Bowser, Southern California division manager of Fox-West Coast, was second.

Revised Labor Draft May Aid Raw Stock

(Continued from page 1)

stock allocations toward which the motion picture section of WPB for months has been working, and was disclosed today to be also threatening the production of high-octane aviation gasoline, synthetic rubber, airplanes, and other war products.

The review of occupational deferments was ordered by President Roosevelt Feb. 26 in a memorandum which many boards have interpreted as instructions to crack down on skilled non-fathers to be inducted.

The President is expected to issue a "clarification" of his memorandum, emphasizing that pre-Pearl Harbors fathers are not to be given deferment priority over highly skilled workers.

Majors Ask Quashing Of Griffith Summons

(Continued from page 1)

stated in his motion that because such a corporation does not exist in Delaware, as charged in the summons, a company named like that appearing in the petition has never done business in Oklahoma. Paramount charged that its summons "was not issued, served and returned in any manner authorized by law" and said the summons represents improper venue. The third motion, filed by United Artists Corp., asks for a more definite statement and for a bill of particulars.

Warner Depositions Taken

Miles H. Alben of the Warner legal department here yesterday gave depositions to Albert Boggess, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, who is holding preliminary hearings in the Griffith anti-trust case.

File New Suits on Percentage Reports

(Continued from page 1)

him in the intentional falsification of certain of said written reports" covering receipts on percentage pictures. Each of the plaintiffs claims resultant damages of many thousands of dollars and demands the right to examine defendants' books and records for the purpose of determining the full extent of damages. An injunction restraining defendants from altering or disposing of books and records pending an audit also is asked.

The actions were filed by Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, RKO Radio, Columbia, Universal and Vitagraph.

Committee to Act On Union Demands

(Continued from page 1)

volve changes in working conditions, improvements in grievance procedure, and vacations and sick leaves with pay. Involved are some 7,000 studio musicians, carpenters, electricians, culinary workers, plasterers, laborers and transportation workers whose contracts expired on Jan. 1.

Meanwhile the producers will resume conferences with representatives of the IATSE studio craft locals at Casey's office this morning after a recess since last Friday.

De Havilland Wins Suit on Contract

(Continued from page 1)

its signing, and that 26 weeks of suspensions the studio attempted to add to the length of the contract was illegal and non-enforceable.

Burnell's decision was given under provisions of Section 2855, California labor code, which provides: "No contract for rendering personal service, excepting apprenticeships, may be enforced beyond seven years."

In a ruling against the studio's contention that suspensions should be added to the length of the contract, he said:

"Such an interpretation would amount to virtual peonage. It might result in an indefinite extension of contractual relations, even to the point of constituting life service."

Suspensions Out in Future

The ruling also indicates that the studios must now seek other means to discipline players refusing to accept roles offered them in that Miss De Havilland testified that most of her suspensions were for refusal to "accept parts she thought unsuitable to her talents."

The Screen Actors Guild had prepared briefs in support of Miss De Havilland's complaint, while numerous producers had prepared briefs supporting the Warners' contention that the clause in the labor code pertaining to "special services" should exempt contracts with players from length-of-contract provisions of the law.

Following the decision Warners filed notice that they would make an appeal.

'Ali Baba' on Dual Leads in Boston With Good $18,500

BOSTON, March 13.—"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" at the Keith Memorial took $18,500, where it was paired with "Hat Check Honey" in its first week. A cold spell is keeping attendance down somewhat. Despite all handicaps, however, theatres are all doing better business than one year ago.

Box office receipts for the week ending March 16:

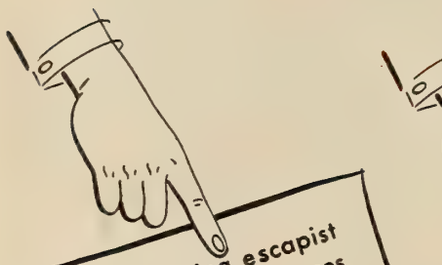
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Hat Check Honey" (Univ.)
KEITH MEMORIAL—(2,900) (44c-55c-65c-75c). Gross: $18,500. (Average: $18,000).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(1,700) (35c-44c-55c-65c). Gross: $13,500. (Average: $10,500).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
FENWAY — (1,373) (35c-44c-55c-65c). Gross: $8,400. (Average: $7,800).
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
RKO BOSTON—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c-85c). Gross: $32,000. (Average: $23,800).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(2,000) (44c-55c-65c). Gross: $20,000. (Average: $23,800).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,200) (44c-55c-65c). Gross: $13,500. (Average: $14,500).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
METROPOLITAN—(4,367) (44c-55c-65c-75c). Gross: $30,000. (Average: $32,000).

P. J. Schaefer Dies

CHICAGO, March 13.—Peter J. Schaefer, 75, one of the founders of Jones, Linick and Schaefer Theatres, died at the Edgewater Beach Hotel at the weekend. Surviving are a niece and two nephews.



Pardon us for pointing



Variety: Rousing escapist musical geared for top grosses in all situations . . . gaiety and songs in a fast-moving pic that will find a ready audience of all ages!



Film Daily: Loaded with comedy and romance . . . gets away from routine . . . good entertainment for all!

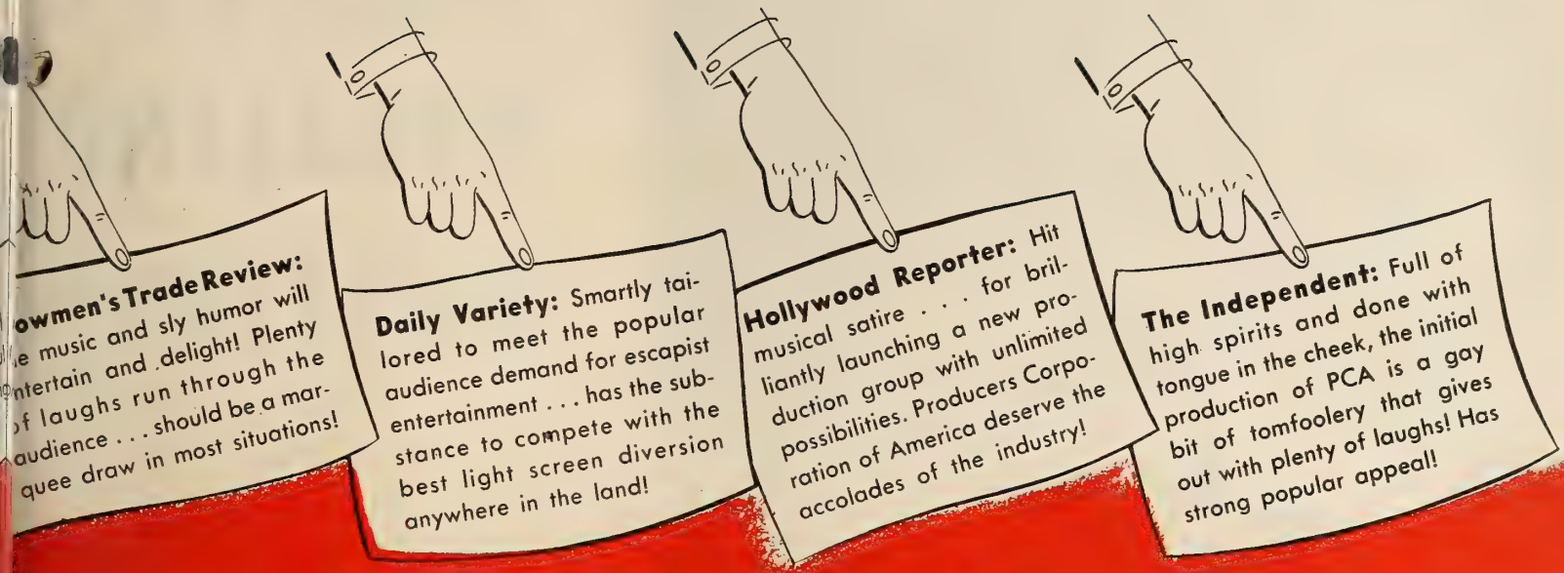


Motion Picture Daily: Gay, tuneful and entertaining . . . should provide film audiences with satisfactory escapist entertainment and do well at the box office!



Motion Picture Herald: A highly amusing film! At all times the music is delightful and well sung! Unique among current screen offerings!

KNICKER HOL



owmen's Trade Review: e music and sly humor will ntertain and delight! Plenty f laughs run through the audience . . . should be a marquee draw in most situations!

Daily Variety: Smartly tailored to meet the popular audience demand for escapist entertainment . . . has the substance to compete with the best light screen diversion anywhere in the land!

Hollywood Reporter: Hit musical satire . . . for brilliantly launching a new production group with unlimited possibilities. Producers Corporation of America deserve the accolades of the industry!

The Independent: Full of high spirits and done with tongue in the cheek, the initial production of PCA is a gay bit of tomfoolery that gives out with plenty of laughs! Has strong popular appeal!

BOCKER DAY

Producers Corporation of America presents

NELSON EDDY • CHARLES COBURN
CONSTANCE DOWLING
in
"KNICKERBOCKER HOLIDAY"

Harry Joe Brown's production of the musical stage hit by Maxwell Anderson & Kurt Weill

with

ERNEST COSSART
Shelley Winter • Johnny (Scat) Davis • Otto Kruger • Percy Kilbride • Chester Conklin • Fritz Feld and CARMEN AMAYA and her Company
Produced and Directed by HARRY JOE BROWN

from good old United Artists



WHO SAYS WE LOST ROSALIND RUSSELL?

Miss Russell's contract with Columbia for the next three years provides that each year she will appear in two motion pictures made by this company.

COLUMBIA PICTURES CORPORATION

COLUMBIA PICTURES

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Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 53 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1944 TEN CENTS

Majors Line Up Foreign Staffs For Post-War

Training Personnel Now For Liberated Lands

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

Following the recent talks between the State Department and representatives of major film companies on the reopening of European markets to American films in the post-war, several foreign distribution heads here have started planning for personnel to man their foreign offices when the liberated markets are reopened.

Some companies expect to use the same supervisory people they had before they were forced to abandon foreign branches, providing those who stayed will have weathered the ordeal of Axis occupation of their countries. Many companies are lin-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Pittsburgh Theatres Held Non-Essential

PITTSBURGH, March 15.—Theatres have been classed as non-essential by the regional War Manpower Commission in the Pittsburgh area under a new ruling. They have been given a No. 3 classification, which forbids hiring of full-time male labor, and allows employment only of women, veterans and 1-A's until such time as they are called.

According to theatre officials here, this will work a hardship principally in the management end. Ushers and cashiers are already chiefly women, and projectionists are for the most part past draft age. The WMC says theatres could apply for an emergency permit in case a projectionist is needed.

Selig Due Here to Complete '100' Job

Robert W. Selig, national manager of the industry's Fourth War Loan "Honored Hundred" contest, is due here today from Colorado City to supervise the judging of winners in the nation-wide competition, operating from War Activities Committee headquarters. Selig is district manager of Fox Intermountain Amusement Corp.

Yesterday was the deadline for the-

(*Continued on page 8*)

N. E. Theatres to Pass Tax to Public; Philadelphia, Too

New England is the latest area in which first-run exhibitors generally have decided to pass along to the public the new Federal admission tax of one cent on each five which goes into effect April 1. Subsequent runs in New Haven, however, have the matter still under advisement. Tax-passing reports have been received from several places in Connecticut and Massachusetts, in addition to the areas mentioned in Tuesday's MOTION PICTURE DAILY, including Memphis, Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Des Moines and elsewhere.

In Philadelphia, independent and circuit operators are both re-arranging box-office scales in view of the new

(*Continued on page 8*)

Producers, IATSE Resume Discussions

Discussions were resumed here yesterday at the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, by producers' representatives and IATSE officials on the general proposals made by IATSE for a new contract to replace agreements which expired on Jan. 1.

Proposals made by the seven AFL locals that are signatories to the studio basic labor agreement which also expired on Jan. 1 are to be negotiated by a six-man committee composed of Nicholas Schenck, Casey and Fred Pelton representing the producers and W. L. Hutcheson, carpenters' head,

(*Continued on page 8*)

N. Y. War Bond Sale Will Hit 40 Millions

Six hundred motion picture theatres in the Metropolitan area have so far accounted for the sale of 285,574 bonds worth $31,971,325 in the Fourth War Loan drive, Edward L. Alperson, RKO, chairman of the War Activities Committee here, reported to the Treasury's War Finance Committee. The figure will reach $40,000,000 when all reports are in, Alperson predicted.

Of sales already recorded, Bronx and Westchester led with $6,405,325; Queens was next with $4,973,000; Manhattan sold $3,407,400 (of which $2,358,425 came from Broadway houses); Brooklyn, $2,299,350 and Staten Island, $450,000. Bond premieres alone accounted for the sale of 116,072 bonds worth $14,-436,250.

Rodgers Amplifies On Rental Policies

CHICAGO, March 15.—Amplifying his statement to the M-G-M sales conference made earlier, that "the time is fast approaching when film rental terms will be calculated only after taking into consideration the operating expense of a theatre," W. F. Rodgers said: "We believe a frank approach to this problem will eliminate much of the debate too many times involved in the writing of a deal."

"If an exhibitor's operations are ef-

(*Continued on page 8*)

$2,401,249 Federal Tax For 9 Loew's Executives

Nine Loew's executives are subject to an estimated $2,401,249 in Federal taxes for the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1943, it is indicated by reports of compensation paid them for the period which were made public here yesterday by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In addition, all of the executives are subject to either New York or California state income taxes. Individual taxes, actually, are apart from corporate taxes, as paid by Loew's, Inc.

The report revealed that Louis B. Mayer received $1,138,992 for the period, of which $1,034,492 was a bonus. Two hundred forty-two thousand two

(*Continued on page 8*)

Rugoff Heads R. C. Special Gifts Unit

Ed Rugoff of Rugoff and Becker, yesterday was named chairman of a corporate gifts committee to cover independent circuits in the New York area for the 1944 Red Cross drive. The appointment was made by Sam Rinzler, New York theatres co-chairman, who, with Herman Robbins, is in charge of all corporate gifts.

Selection of Rugoff was made at a meeting in War Activities Committee headquarters here attended by Si Fabian, Max Cohen, Fred Schwartz, Bill

(*Continued on page 8*)

Report Rank To Make Quota Films for Fox

Coast Hears Deal Has Been Set in London

By RED KANN

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—A deal by which J. Arthur Rank's British production interests will make two or three features in London for 20th Century-Fox to meet the latter's quota requirements has been set, it was reported here today.

The British productions will be distributed in the United Kingdom by 20th-Fox, but elsewhere throughout the world they will be distributed by Eagle-Lion, with the possible exception of one feature which 20th-Fox may release in the United States, according to reports.

Meanwhile, Arthur W. Kelly, head of Rank's Eagle-Lion Films in the U. S. reiterated here today that Eagle-Lion will have its own sales organi-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Peskay May Become Film Classics Head

Edward J. Peskay will assume the presidency of Film Classics, replacing George A. Hirliman, who will relinquish that post upon completion of negotiations for the sale of his interests in the company, it was reported here yesterday.

Irvin Shapiro, secretary-treasurer, general manager and a stockholder of the company since its inception in April 1943, has already disposed of his interests in Film Classics, and is now serving as a sales executive under a contract.

The company, which was organized

(*Continued on page 6*)

Lesser and Arthur Are Talking a Deal

ST. LOUIS, March 15.—Harry Arthur, Jr., vice-president of Fanchon & Marco, who is organizing a new producing-distributing company, said here today he has discussed with Sol Lesser a proposal to produce for the new company, but that no definite agreement has been reached.

"I talked with Lesser in Hollywood before I returned to St. Louis," Arthur said, "and I will see him again as soon as I return to Hollywood. We left it this way: I told him that if he

(*Continued on page 6*)

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 15

JAMES R. GRAINGER, president of Republic Pictures, left here today for San Francisco, from where he will go to Chicago, and is expected to reach New York at the weekend.

•

"Time to Love," musical drama with a pre-war Balkan background, starring Rise Stevens, has been announced by Lester Cowan for release on United Artists' 1944-45 schedule.

•

RKO has purchased "Deadline at Dawn," an action mystery novel by William Irish, and "Oh, Careless Love," an original comedy by Lester Cole and Ben Barzman.

•

"Typhoon," a play by Melchoir Lengyel based on the spy system the Japanese devised after their war with Russia, has been bought by 20th-Fox. Ernst Lubitsch will produce the film.

•

Ralph Block, India representative for the Office of War Information, will return to Washington Saturday after a week of conferences here.

•

Republic has announced "Song of Nevada," in which Roy Rogers will star, and "Murder to Music," which Herman Millakowski will produce.

•

Tom Fizdale has been named by International to handle Eastern exploitation on "Casanova Brown" and "Belle of the Yukon."

•

A. J. Cronin's new novel, "The Green Years," which will be published in the fall, has been bought by M-G-M.

•

Silas F. Seadler, M-G-M advertising manager, will leave here tomorrow for New York.

Johnston Honored at Cincinnati Luncheon

CINCINNATI, March 15.—The Independent Motion Picture Exhibitors Association here gave a luncheon to W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram Pictures, today at the Netherland Plaza Hotel in recognition of his 30th anniversary in the industry.

Forty exhibitors of Southern Ohio attended. Preceding the luncheon, William Onie and George West, local franchise holders, gave a reception for Johnston.

Edward Connolly Dies

CINCINNATI, March 15.—Edward Connolly, manager of the Avenue Theatre here, down town subsequent, died suddenly at his home in nearby Newport, Ky, today. His widow and a daughter survive.

Services for Spillman

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—Funeral services were held today for Harry B. Spillman Sr., 79, retired stage manager, who died at his home here on Saturday.

Personal Mention

J. CHEEVER COWDIN, Universal board chairman, has returned to the Coast from New York.

•

EDGAR FLEISHER GROSS, son of SAMUEL GROSS, 20th-Fox branch manager in Philadelphia, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah March 25 at the Congregation Rodeph Shalom, followed by a reception at the Variety Club.

•

WILLIE GROSS, former assistant manager of Warners' Columbia, Philadelphia, has been promoted to first lieutenant with the Ferrying Division of the Air Transport Command.

•

IRVING H. GREENFIELD, assistant to LEOPOLD FRIEDMAN, general counsel for Loew's, will be married this Sunday to MISS ETHEL H. RUDAW of Brooklyn.

•

EDGAR MOSS, 20th-Fox district manager in Philadelphia, has undergone a critical operation but is reported out of danger.

•

ROBERT BENNER, assistant manager of the Pastime, Lewistown, Pa., has returned to his desk following an illness.

•

LT. TED ABER, former Paramount salesman in Philadelphia, recently became the father of a son, MICHAEL BRUCE, born at Milford, Del.

•

TOM JONES, Comerford Theatres suburban supervisor, has been inducted into the Army.

•

WILLARD MATTHEWS, manager of the Capitol, Hazleton, Pa., has been inducted into the Army.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern and Canadian sales manager, left yesterday for Columbus.

•

SIDNEY ROYE of the Universal sales promotion department, left for a Florida vacation yesterday.

ALEX L. HILLMAN, publisher of *Movieland*, left yesterday for a four-week trip to Chicago and Hollywood.

•

MARGARET M. COMERFORD, daughter of the late M. B. COMERFORD, general manager of Comerford Theatres, became the bride of CPL. ROBERT J. O'HARA of Scranton, Pa., last week in St. Paul's Church, Scranton.

•

LT. and MRS. WILLIAM HESS are parents of a daughter born in St. Mary's Hospital, Scranton, Pa. LT. HESS was formerly assistant manager of the Rialto in that city.

•

JOHN DITZLER of the Bloomsburg, Pa., Columbia office, recently became the father of a daughter born to MRS. DITZLER in the Geisinger Hospital, Danville, Pa.

•

GORDON KNOX of the Princeton Film Center, left yesterday for the Coast to negotiate production of additional aircraft indoctrination films by that organization.

•

GEORGE WELTNER, assistant manager of Paramount's foreign department, returned this week from a six-week survey of branch offices in South America.

•

ROY DISNEY, business manager for Walt Disney productions, will arrive here Monday for a visit of several weeks.

•

ROY HAINES, Warner Bros. Southern and Western division sales manager, left yesterday on a tour of the Midwest and South.

•

ARNOLD STOLZ, United Artists exploitation director, will leave for Atlanta tomorrow.

•

LUISE RAINER has arrived here following a three-month USO tour of North Africa and the Italian front.

Set 'Girl' Showings; Fashion Show Held

"Cover Girl" will be shown to exhibitors at the Tivoli, San Francisco, today and at the Orpheum in New Orleans on March 22. It was screened here two weeks ago.

Five players in "Cover Girl" yesterday modeled fashions for Sak's, Fifth Avenue, at a Saks-Columbia luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. This was the first time a Saks show has been tied up with a motion picture. "Cover girls" in the display were Francine Counihan, Jean Colleran, Betty Jane Hess, Rose Mae Robson and Cheryl Archer. Anita Colby was "mistress of ceremonies."

McCloskey's Son Killed

MEMPHIS, March 15.—Managers of film exchanges here attended the funeral services at Little Rock, Ark., recently for Commander C. H. McCloskey Jr., son of C. H. McCloskey, veteran Arkansas theatre operator, who was killed in a plane accident.

M. P. Associates Will Sponsor New Canteen

A new service canteen will soon appear in Times Square under the auspices of Motion Picture Associates, according to Morris Sanders, president. Several sites, one of them in the Hotel Astor, have been offered.

The canteen will be partially underwritten and serviced by the MPA's HODSOCs (Honorable Order of Dishwashers and Short Order Cooks). Available to the servicemen, among other inducements, will be a library of the scripts of the best motion pictures produced during the past 10 years.

Jack Ellis, canteen chairman, says that a group of industry executives are interested in furnishing a lunch bar and fountain. The canteen will have cots for service men who cannot get hotel reservations.

Ohio ITO Meet Set

COLUMBUS, O., March 15.—Annual meeting of the ITO of Ohio has been set for May 9-10 at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel here.

RCA Tells Eligibles Of Equipment Lack

Eligibility for motion picture sound and projection equipment under WPB's recent limitation order L-325 is not in itself a guarantee of availability of such equipment, Homer B. Snook, manager of RCA theatre equipment sales, warns exhibitors.

Many exhibitors think, Snook said, that they have only to meet conditions of eligibility in order to get delivery. On the contrary, he explained, availability of equipment is restricted also by WPB limitations on the amount of equipment which manufacturers may produce for civilian use.

"RCA has been able to meet replacement needs of a number of theatres under the WPB order," he said, "but the number of eligible purchasers greatly exceeds the quota of equipments which we are permitted to supply."

Procedure, Snook explained, calls for submission to WPB of information concerning each order placed. It may be entered and delivery made only after approval from Washington, and then only if the equipment falls within the company's civilian quota.

Claims 'Bank Night' Ban Hurt Pickwick

NEW HAVEN, March 15.—Joseph Berry, defense attorney cross-examining E. J. Peskay, former operator of the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, in the Prefect anti-trust suit against the majors, being tried here, attempted to show today that the loss in revenue which the house experienced starting in 1936 was attributable to the dropping of "Bank Night," "Screeno" and similar attractions rather than to film clearance difficulties claimed by the plaintiffs.

Questioning also sought to establish that, during the alleged unfair clearance period, Peskay, in his additional capacity as general sales manager for Grand National Pictures, approved Pickwick contracts favoring Portchester, N. Y. on clearance. In this connection, Peskay testified that he handled 7,500 accounts for Grand National and could not take a close personal interest in all of the transactions.

The defense introduced pre-trial depositions in which Peskay had stated that reports on the Pickwick came to him only spasmodically, whereas he claimed on the stand that they came to him week by week.

'My Way' Postponed

Paramount's "Going My Way," originally scheduled for release in the company's fourth block, has been temporarily withdrawn, it was reported this week by Neil Agnew, general sales manager. This action is a result of extended runs and added playdates for "Lady in the Dark" and "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek."

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Carothers Organizes Drive on Coast

All Areas Are United in This Drive: Kalmine

Unified action by all sections of the industry is one of the chief characteristics of this year's Red Cross drive, and the factor that will probably contribute most to its success, declared Harry M. Kalmine, assistant general manager of Warner Theatres, following his return from a series of key city exhibitor rallies in behalf of the industry's 1944 Red Cross campaign.

In an over-all report to New York WAC-Red Cross headquarters on the meetings, Kalmine said: "That which struck me most forcibly was the unanimous, as well as spontaneous, response of exhibitors, exchange personnel and other film people who attended the rallies. As far as the industry is concerned in this Red Cross Drive, there are no circuits and independents, no exhibitors and distributors, no major and minors. There is one unified group.

"With that kind of teamwork and cooperation, we are pretty sure to not only achieve, but possibly even surpass, our goal in the 1944 Red Cross Campaign."

'Hargrove' Preview Will Launch Drive

Opening of the Red Cross drive in New York theatres will occur Tuesday evening, March 21, at the Astor, when M-G-M's "See Here, Private Hargrove" will be screened for an invitation audience of members of the armed forces and civic leaders. A number of tickets will be distributed to contributors to the drive.

Among those present will be Sergeant Marion Hargrove, the book's author and Lieut. Thomas Mulvehill, a character in the book; 30 war heroes, Army officers and former Gov. Alfred E. Smith. George Hamilton Coombs will broadcast over station WHN.

O'Donnell Lines Up 700 Theatres For Texas Drive

DALLAS, March 15.—More than 700 Texas theatres, an all-time record participation, will take part in Red Cross Week theatre collections, March 23-29, it was disclosed here by R. J. O'Donnell, general manager of Interstate Circuit and Southwest chairman of the industry's 1944 Red Cross Drive.

Following exhibitor representatives have been named to the Texas field committee, under O'Donnell: John Adams, vice-chairman; Col. H. A. Cole, Dallas; C. H. Cox, Gilmer; Julius Gordon, Beaumont; R. E. Griffith, Dallas; Henry Hall, Beeville; Oskar Korn, Dallas; Jack Pickens, Uvalde; Henry Reeve, Menard; E. H. Rowley, Dallas; R. N. Smith, Mission; W. J. Wilke, Graham; W. J. Wooten, Canyon; Ray Beall, Dallas, publicity director; W. A. Cutler, secretary.

Tributes Paid to Wisconsin Industry

MILWAUKEE, March 15.—Harold J. Fitzgerald, Wisconsin chairman of the War Activities Committee-motion picture Red Cross drive, has received telegrams of official recognition of the industry's vital role in the war effort from Walter S. Goodland, acting governor of Wisconsin and John L. Bohn, acting mayor of Milwaukee.

"We are deeply grateful for the magnificent work exhibitors and distributors in Wisconsin are accomplishing in war efforts," Goodland wired. "We are now in the Red Cross 1944 campaign. I again appeal to you as members of the motion picture industry of Wisconsin to do all that is possible to further collections."

Bohn stated in his wire, "I wish to take this opportunity to commend your organization for its valuable contributions to the war effort. It is gratifying to learn that you have again marshalled your forces in the interest of the Red Cross."

Red Cross Drive Alaskan Style

That Red Cross theatre collections will be taken in even the most remote parts of the nation is evidenced by a pledge received at WAC-Red Cross headquarters here yesterday from the Craig Theatre, Craig, Alaska. Robert J. Peratrovich, Jr., who operates the house, is also the chairman of the Klawock Chapter of the Red Cross. Operators of the theatre travel six miles by boat each day to bring patrons from Klawock. A quota of 50 per cent more than last year has been set by Peratrovich.

Capital Theatres All Set for Drive

WASHINGTON, March 15.—At a second meeting of the motion picture industry's Red Cross campaign committee here yesterday, arrangements were completed to make the 1944 Red Cross campaign the largest of similar theatre drives.

Not only are theatres in this area now pledged 100 per cent to give full cooperation in collections at all performances, but at today's special meeting decisions were made to execute complete exploitation campaigns to assure maximum results. Initial steps in the exploitation of the campaign starts this week with lobby displays in all lobbies.

New England Aims to Top Last Year 100%

BOSTON, March 15.—"A 100 per cent increase in collections this year over 1943 is expected for New England," said Al Kane, distributor chairman for the New England territory in the motion picture industry's 1944 Red Cross campaign at a district meeting here this week.

To date about 85 per cent of the theatres in this area have pledged full cooperation. The campaign is well under way with theatre marquees, lobbies and newspaper advertising carrying the slogan "Give More in '44."

Six Laborites, 23 Studioites On Committee

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—All-out support of the Motion Picture Industry's 1944 Red Cross drive by the producing branch of the business is assured by an organizational setup announced here today by Frank Carothers, Hollywood chairman of the campaign of which Joseph Bernhard is national chairman for the industry. Carothers is secretary of the studio International Unions' Committee.

Among Carothers' vice-chairmen are Lou C. Helm, Studio Utility Workers, Local 724, who accepted the nomination by labor's executive committee as executive vice-chairman; Carl Cooper, chairman of Labor's Executive Committee and representative of the IATSE; John Dales Jr., executive chairman of Screen Actors' Guild; D. T. Wayne, representing the Conference of Studio Unions; Joseph P. Tuohy, representing the Basic Agreement Unions, and Teet Carle, representing independent unions and guilds.

'Colonels' Named

Studio "colonels" assigned to assist in the campaign are: Columbia, Charles Lacey; Samuel Goldwyn, Marvin Ezell; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, W. K. Craig, assisted by A. A. Newman; Paramount, A. B. Hilton, assisted by H. E. McCroskey; Republic, H. J. Glick; RKO-Radio, Earl Rettig; 20th Century-Fox, Fred S. Meyer, with Fred L. Metzler substituting during Meyer's absence; Universal, A. H. McCausland, with David Garber as substitute; Warner Bros., Edward Selzer; General Service, B. J. Mabel; independent group, I. E. Chadwick; Monogram, R. E. Young; Disney, Paul Scanlon, assisted by Walt Pfeiffer; Technicolor, Lee Bowen; United Artists, George Begnall; allied industries, E. O. Blackburn, chairman, and Van Herron, colonel; artists-managers, Nat Goldstone.

Industry Executives Tour Country for Drive



Si Fabian



Francis Harmon



Ben Kalmenson



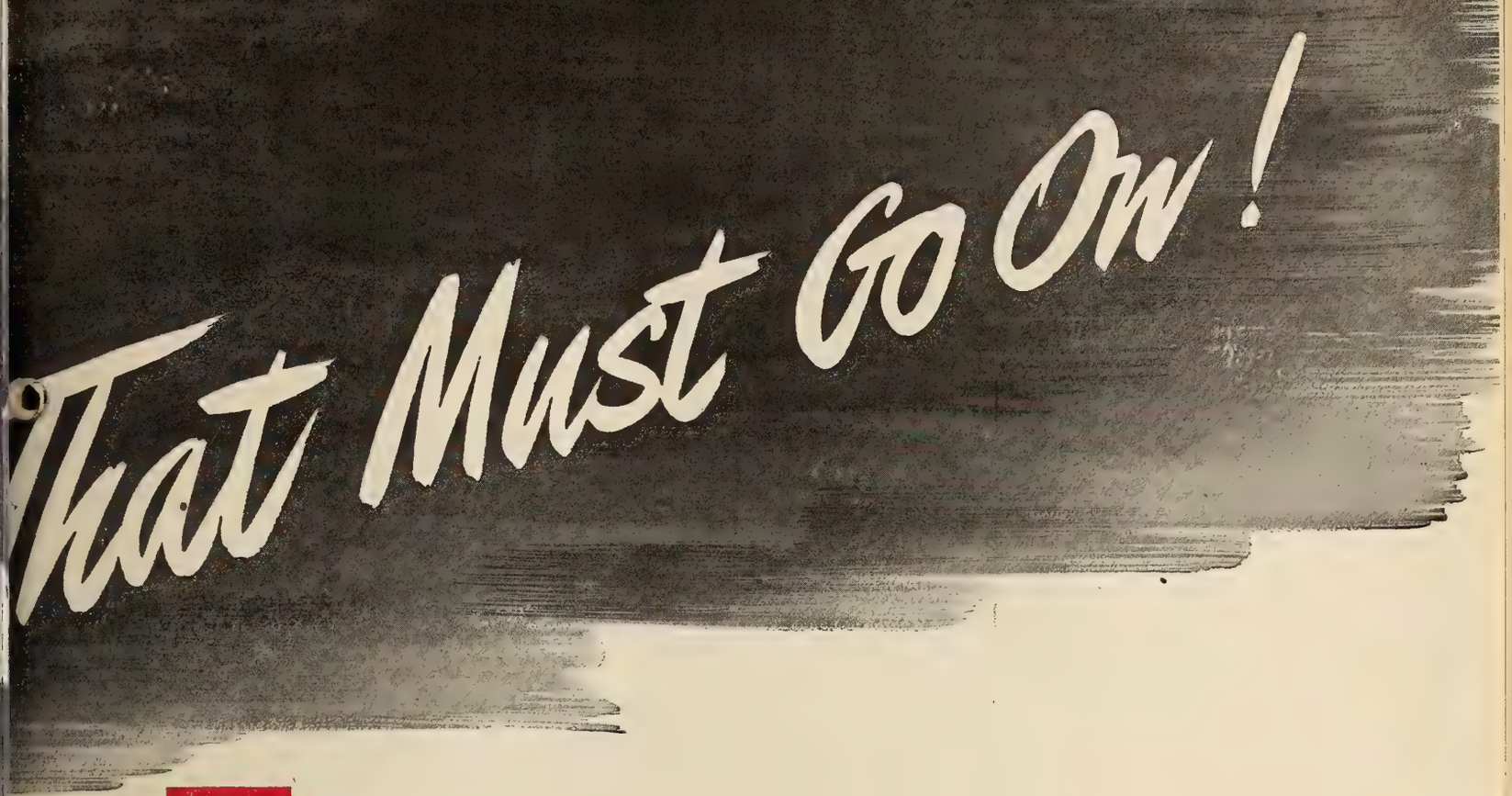
Harry Kalmine



Robert Mochrie



THIS ADVERTISEMENT CONTRIBUTED BY UNITED ARTISTS



At the front and behind it . . . In Italy, in the South Seas . . . In Iceland, Alaska, Africa and a hundred and one isolated places the Red Cross brings movies to our soldiers. Sometimes the theatres are hospitals and huts, sometimes just a combination of rough ground and portable equipment. But wherever the show and whatever . . . the boys crave it, enjoy it and are lifted in spirits by it. It's tonic for our men . . . morale tonic! It must go on.

(Films, of course, supplied by your Motion Picture Industry.)

SWING YOUR HOUSE BEHIND THE 1944 MOTION PICTURE THEATRES' RED CROSS WEEK + MARCH 23-29

Swing it . . . **FULL WEIGHT!**

FULL TIME!

FULL SUPPORT!

TAKE COLLECTIONS AT EVERY PERFORMANCE!

Majors Line Up Foreign Staffs For Post-War

(Continued from page 1)

ing up and training new personnel here to take charge in various liberated lands. These companies feel that previous personnel might not be acceptable any longer.

Among new situations which will be encountered in re-establishing markets for American films in the countries now under Hitler's domination will be stiffer competition from England, foreign sales heads predict. Considerable missionary work will have to be done to re-sell American films to peoples who have not seen them for many years. Several companies, in establishing post-war setups, intend to use only hand-picked personnel to gain prestige.

Paramount has several men in training, getting them set to take over supervisory positions in liberated countries, according to John W. Hicks, Jr., head of the company's foreign department. Although some former Paramount European directors might be available and might resume their former positions in the post-war, "we are protecting ourselves with manpower for the post-war in training new personnel here," Hicks said.

Others Making Plans

Robert E. Schless, Warner foreign manager, indicates that the company has the problem of suitable personnel "constantly in mind these days." RKO is another company with a training program in hand and is now lining up supervisory people. Although some who previously held European posts will resume if available, RKO plans to promote several from the organization to take over top foreign posts. Alfred E. Daff, Universal foreign sales supervisor, recently said his company has already lined up several to take over when the markets are reopened. United Artists has a reservoir from which it can draw for supervisory personnel, according to Walter Gould, head of foreign distribution.

Columbia now has key men in the company who will be available to form the nucleus of the organization which will execute extensive plans which the company contemplates for the foreign field, says Joseph A. McConville, Columbia vice-president.

Lesser and Arthur Are Talking a Deal

(Continued from page 1)

wants to make a deal to make pictures for us then we want him to do it." Arthur and Lesser were associated in the old First National years ago when Lesser was vice-president and Arthur was general manager.

Arthur explained that he returned to St. Louis because his two brothers, Dave and James Arthur, who hold key positions in Fanchon & Marco here, have applied for commissions in the Marine Corps and 11 other employes expect to enter military service shortly.

Review

"Four Jills in a Jeep"

(20th Century-Fox)

"FOUR JILLS IN A JEEP" is 20th Century-Fox's gay salute to the Hollywood stars who have gone overseas under the auspices of USO-Camp Shows, Inc., and the Hollywood Victory Committee to bring entertainment to the armed forces, unmindful of facing the vicissitudes of actual warfare. It is light comedy with music inspired by some of the actual experiences of Kay Francis, Carole Landis, Martha Raye and Mitzi Mayfair during their tour of Army camps of England last year.

The four recreate their trip, aided and abetted in the film version by tenor Dick Haymes, making his screen debut after being voted radio's 1943 "Most Promising Star of Tomorrow" in MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S eighth annual poll of radio editors, plus Phil Silvers and Jimmy Dorsey and his orchestra. To further enhance box office potentialities, producer Irving Starr has featured singing specialties by Betty Grable, Alice Faye and Carmen Miranda and a brief turn by George Jessel through the medium of radio "command performances" shortwaved to our soldiers overseas. Exhibitors are provided with a wealth of exploitation angles in selling this film.

Only a few tour highlights are touched upon in the film. They are varied and place emphasis on Miss Landis' romance and marriage to an American Air Force officer in London, as played by John Harvey. Haymes as a former vaudeville partner of Miss Mayfair now serving with the Air Force, gives a good account of himself. He sings three numbers from the Jimmy McHugh-Harold Adamson musical score. Miss Landis sings "Crazy Me"; Miss Raye renders her old standby "Mr. Paganini," with her usual enthusiasm; Miss Mayfair has two dance routines; and Miss Francis acts as shepherdess of the flock.

Director William A. Seiter does well with a screen play by Robert Ellis, Helen Logan and Snag Werris, from a story by Froma Sand and Fred Niblo, Jr.

Running time, 89 mins. "G."* Released late in March.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Jane Eyre' on Dual Tops Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, March 15.—"Jane Eyre" and "Hatcheck Honey" are expected to gross $13,500 at the Indiana this week. "Klondike Kate" and "None Shall Escape" will do $11,000 at Loew's.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 14-16:

"Swing Time Johnny" (Univ.)
"In Our Time" (WB)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,800).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Hatcheck Honey" (Univ.)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $11,600).
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,500).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
LYRIC—(2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, moveover from Indiana. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,900).

Peskay May Become Film Classics Head

(Continued from page 1)

for the purpose of re-issuing quality films on a world-wide basis, will, it is understood, enter production, and will continue to distribute in the United States on a states-right basis through Film Classics' 13 exchanges, 12 of which are operated by franchise holders. Negotiations are under way, it was learned, for the establishment of additional exchanges.

Peskay is presently Eastern representative for Samuel Bronston, Gregor Rabinovitch and Benedict Bogeaus, independent producers releasing through United Artists.

Efforts to reach Peskay and Hirliman for comment yesterday were unsuccessful.

De Havilland Not Yet Free, Warners Warn

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—Warners today served telegraphic notice on all other studios and also on legitimate theatre producers, warning them that Olivia De Havilland "is still under exclusive contract" to the company.

The step was predicated on the fact that Superior Judge Charles Burnell's ruling of yesterday, holding Miss De Havilland's seven-year contract terminated as of May 5, 1943, has not yet become final. In the telegram Warners signified their intention to appeal the decision, which would establish the precedent that contracts may not be arbitrarily extended to cover time when a player is under suspension.

'Canteen', 'Air Power' Banned from Eire

"Stage Door Canteen," Sol Lesser production, and "Victory Through Air Power," produced by Walt Disney, both distributed by United Artists, have been banned from exhibition in Eire by Dr. Richard Hayes, official film censor, it was learned here yesterday.

Although United Artists can appeal the decision to Frank Aiken, Minister for the Coordination of Defensive Measures, it is understood that they will not take any action.

'Voice' Nets $2,000

United Artists reported yesterday that the Victoria Theatre management here estimated a week-day record gross of $2,000 for the opening yesterday of "Voice in the Wind," UA release of Ripley-Monter production.

'Gung Ho' $6,000 Above Average in Philadelphia Run

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—Favorable weather and no competing factors contributed to good grosses here. Holdovers and continued runs are holding up strong. "Gung Ho" leads the field with $26,500 at the Fox. Among holdovers. "A Guy Named Joe" points to $25,200 for its second week at the Boyd.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 15-17:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
ALDINE—(900) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $25,200. (Average: $14,600).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,400. (Average: $4,000).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $23,300. (Average: $18,000).
"Swing Fever" (M-G-M) (6 days)
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M) (1 days)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville including Bill Robinson, D'Artega's all-girl orchestra, and The Whitson Brothers. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $27,800).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $20,500).
"Lost Angel" (M-G-M)
KARLTON — (1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $6,600).
"Jack London" (UA)
KEITH'S — (2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,800).
"In Our Time" (WB)
MASTBAUM — (4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 5 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,800. (Average: $22,500).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
STANLEY — (3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,200. (Average: $20,000).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $9,400).

St. Louis Exhibitors Charge Interference

ST. LOUIS, March 15.—Union interference with witnesses and a violation of the War Labor Disputes Act are charged by a St. Louis exhibitors' committee in a telegram to the War Labor Board in Washington protesting the closing of the hearing of the St. Louis Theatrical Brotherhood to the public and press here.

The wire, which was sent over the signature of Harry C. Arthur, Jr., chairman of the committee, charged the action "deprives us of essential rights among which is the prophylactic effort of public exposure of an injurious, unlawful, costly and unjust privately enforced employment of persons who spend their time in idleness."

The telegram asks for an investigation by the U. S. Attorney General's office and that criminal action be taken. The WLB is asked to issue subpoenas for witnesses to be called by the committee. Thus far the Regional Board has failed to issue any subpoenas on behalf of the committee.

Buys Belmont Here

World Theatres, Inc., of which Gilbert Josephson is president, has exercised its option to purchase the Belmont Theatre here and plans to continue the theatre as a show-window for Mexican and South American films. The company also operates the World here.



TRAVEL NEWS FOR EXHIBITORS WHO WANT TO GO PLACES :—

You can now Book PASSAGE to MARSEILLE!

(IT'S A 5-WEEK TRIP-AT LEAST!)

At N. Y. Hollywood hitting a 5-week record and continues indefinitely!

WARNERS

Star, Director, Producer, and most of the cast of the Academy Award Picture 'Casablanca'!

HUMPHREY BOGART in 'PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE' • CLAUDE RAINS • MICHELE MORGAN • PHILIP DORN • SYDNEY GREENSTREET • HELMUT DANTINE • PETER LORRE • GEO. TOBIAS

A HAL B. WALLIS Prod'n • Screen Play by Casey Robinson & Jack Moffitt • From a Novel by Chas. Nordhoff & James Norman Hall • Music by Max Steiner • Directed by MICHAEL CURTIZ

Jack L. Warner, *Executive Producer*

Red Cross Drive! Collect Every Performance March 23-29!

N. E. Theatres to Pass Tax to Public; Philadelphia, Too

(Continued from page 1)

Federal tax, which will also be passed on to theatregoers here. In most cases, admissions will be raised a few pennies above the additional tax in order to avoid the handling of pennies, which have been increasingly scarce here and annoying to cashiers.

New Haven Fixes Rise

In New Haven, Loew's Poli, Loew's College and the Roger Sherman will have a uniform balcony and orchestra evening price of 55 cents, while the Paramount will raise its evening top from 55 to 60 cents. During afternoons, the first three houses will go from 40 to 43 cents and the Paramount will raise its base from 36 to 37 cents, to make a total of 44 cents with tax for the entire house.

The Bijou, also first-run, will charge 55 cents for the orchestra evenings, as formerly, but will have a new balcony price of 45 cents against the old price of 40 cents. During afternoons the orchestra will raise to 43 from 40 cents and the balcony to 35 from 30 cents.

Suburban Houses

The Community, Fairfield, Conn., reports a rise from 35 to 40 cents in the orchestra and 40 to 50 cents in the balcony. The fine Arts, only house in Westport, Conn., will go to 50 cents from 40, with children's admissions up from 11 to 14 cents matinees and from 17 to 20 cents evenings.

The majority of houses in the Boston area also plan to add the new tax to present scales. Downtown de luxe theatres now charging a 35-50-65 cents scale will go to 40, 55 and 70 or 75 cents. Neighborhood houses now operating on a 30-35-50 scale will go to 35, 40 and 55 cents. Thus, in the latter instance, a small part of the tax will be absorbed by the house, in line with some exhibitors' desire to make amounts even money in all cases to facilitate making change.

Selig Due Here to Complete '100' Job

(Continued from page 1)

atre managers to file with WAC state chairmen the reports on the number of bonds sold. Each state chairman will have until April 1 to forward to the WAC here the name of the state winner who sold the highest ratio of bonds to seats in his theatre, plus the names of ten nominees in each of five house-size classifications.

From the latter, 50 of the "Honored Hundred" will be selected by the national judges: Walter D. Fuller, Palmer Hoyt and Dr. P. H. Odegard. The 50, added to the champions from the 48 states, District of Columbia, Hawaii and Alaska, will make, actually, 101 winners. Final selections are expected to be known by April 15.

Colby Ends Tour

Anita Colby, Columbia's "Cover Girl," arrived in New York from Buffalo yesterday after completing a tour of 26 key cities, serving as "advance man" for Columbia's new "Cover Girl."

W. F. Rodgers Amplifies M-G-M Rental Policies

(Continued from page 1)

ncient, his expenses normal and his record consistent, there is no reason why his problems should be minimized. Naturally, abnormal overheads of improvident expansions cannot be deserving of this same consideration, and certainly we do not intend to guarantee such situations the same consideration which is justified in a normal situation," Rodgers said.

Asserting that consideration of the subject is "consistent with our policy of giving individual attention to every theatre, and pricing our pictures according to their performance in individual situations," Rodgers pointed out that "through the sliding scale we have made adjustments automatic, eliminating the necessity of any exhibitor feeling that he is humbling himself to get that to which he is justly entitled."

"Feeling that our men in the field are closer to the problems of their customers," Rodgers said, "we long ago delegated to our branch managers the right to make proper designations on any picture and to reclassify any that failed to measure up to reasonable expectations."

Bonds to Shirley, Allen and Bickel.

M-G-M closed its five-day business conference today when Rodgers awarded $1,000 bonds to Midwest district manager Sam Shirley and to branch managers John Allen, Washington, and LeRoy Bickel, Dallas, for winning suggestions for company activities.

In recognition of 20 years or more of service with M-G-M, Rodgers gave 23 district and branch managers special pins. Receiving these were: Lou Amacher, R. Berger, LeRoy Bickel, Jack Bowen, James Briant, Frank Downey, Henry Friedel, Foster Gauker, Murray Goldstein, Frank Hensler, George Hickey, Lou Ingram, Jack Kemptgen, Charles Kessnich, Clayton and Robert Lynch, Ralph Pielow, Sam A. Shirley, Frank Willingham, L. C. Wingham, Morris Wolf, W. H. Workman, and William Zoellner.

Ten-Year Service Honored

Sixteen others also received pins for ten or more years of service. They are: Ben Abner, Burtus Bishop, Jr., E. M. Booth, J. P. Byrnes, T. J. Donaldson, Sam Gardner, Jack Kennedy, Ralph Maw, Jack Reville, Herman Ripps, Ben Rosenwald, Harry Shumow, Jack Sogg, Morris Saffle, B. D. Stoner. Rodgers gave John E. Flynn, Western sales manager and host to the delegates, a solid gold "master key" to every M-G-M "door" in the world.

Final speakers on the program included E. K. O'Shea, Eastern sales manager, who discussed the handling of "Tunisian Victory," play-offs on pictures and newsreels and shorts; J. J. Maloney, Central sales manager, who spoke on subsequent runs; E. W. Aaron, circuit sales head, who urged greater personal contact between salesmen and exhibitors and stressed wider circulation of pictures; John E. Flynn, Western sales head, who concentrated on bookings of shorts with features; and E. M. Saunders, assistant general sales manager.

Producers, IATSE Resume Discussions

(Continued from page 1)

Jack Gillespie of the transportation workers and Edward J. Brown of the electricians, representing the locals. This committee is empowered to work out an agreement but it is not expected that this will be accomplished until agreement is reached with the IATSE locals.

Discounting published reports, Casey yesterday stated emphatically that none of the 26 IATSE proposals have been settled. "No agreements have been reached between the producers and the unions on any proposals," he declared. Casey also belittled a published report that the American Federation of Musicians is demanding that "standby orchestras" of from 25 to 35 men be employed on a full time basis in all the studios, citing the fact that it is the custom for all studios to maintain skeleton music staffs at all times.

Meetings between the producers and IATSE representatives will continue at Casey's office this morning. No provisions have been made for meetings between the producers and representatives of the Conference of Studio Unions, which comprises seven other AFL locals.

UA Promotes Boudot

CINCINNATI, March 15.—Gustave J. Boudot has been named office manager of the local United Artists exchange, succeeding Don Galvin, who joins the U. A. sales staff.

Rank May Produce Fox Quota Films

(Continued from page 1)

zation in the United States and, if possible, its own exchange system.

Admitting the difficulties of establishing an exchange system in wartime, he said that the new company will proceed as far as possible toward the realization of that objective in the immediate future and, that if it is found necessary to do so, the assistance of other companies would be sought until normal operations are once more possible. In this connection, Kelly said that RKO Radio has offered to help wherever possible and pointed out that Rank has two other "very good friends in the American industry, 20th-Fox and Universal." He indicated the possibility that Eagle-Lion may have its own offices in about half of the key territories and would use those of other distributors in the remainder.

Kelly, who was scheduled to leave for New York at the weekend, has postponed his departure in the hopes of concluding a deal for a producer-partner here who, as reported earlier, will wield wide influence in the character of the new company and its operations.

Files Plagiarism Suit

A suit for damages and an accounting was filed in Federal Court here this week against RKO by Harold L. Kingston, who charges that the film "Weekend for Three" was based on his play "A-Hunting We Will Go."

Rugoff Heads R.C. Special Gifts Unit

(Continued from page 1)

White, Harry Brandt, Arthur Rapf, Leo Brecher, Mannie Frisch, and George Dembow of National Screen Service, the latter representing Robbins. The group made an initial pledge of $30,000 and promised at least 60 percent more than last year. Rugoff will utilize branch managers and film salesmen to solicit every owner in the area.

Meanwhile, in Albany, at the last of the 26 key-city meetings launching the industry's Red Cross drive, Lou R. Golding, local exhibitor chairman, announced yesterday that his territory was pledged 100 percent to hold collections at every performance from March 23 to 29.

Ned E. Depinet, national distributor chairman, speaking to 150 showmen at the Albany session in the DeWitt Clinton Hotel, pointed out that this year it is necessary to collect two-and-a-half times more than last year.

On the dais at Albany, besides Golding and Depinet, were Si Fabian, WAC chairman; Harry M. Kalmine, of Warner Theatres, one of the drive's touring speakers; Charles A. Smakwitz, publicity director; Mayor Erastus Corning; C. G. Eastman, Paramount, local distributor chairman; Frederick McDonald and Lillian Bean of the Red Cross.

$2,401,249 Tax for Loew's Executives

(Continued from page 1)

hundred twenty-six dollars of this amount remained unpaid at the time of the filing of the report pending discussions with the Treasury's Salary Stabilization unit. The total normal and surtax on the compensation payable to Mayer, estimated without regard to any partially exempt interest or any earned income credit, under the Federal Revenue Act of 1942, would aggregate approximately $951,240.

Nicholas M. Schenck, Loew's president, received $512,391, of which $382,391 was a bonus. Federal taxes, computed as above, would approximate $426,044. The report showed that Schenck exercised options to purchase 7,000 shares of Loew's common stock at $40 a share on April 20, 1943, and 2,500 shares at $40 a share on May 6, 1943. Average market price of the stock on the above dates was 55⅝ and 56 a share, respectively.

$372,739 to Mannix

E. J. Mannix, vice-president and studio general manager, received $372,739, including a bonus of $214,139, according to the S.E.C. report. Federal taxes on the sum would amount to approximately $303,150.

Other bonuses paid by the company and the estimated Federal taxes thereon were: David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer, $229,434 bonus, $177,041 tax; J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and general counsel, $213,927, bonus, $163,395 tax; Sam Katz, $214,139 bonus, $163,582 tax; Al Lichtman, vice-president, $160,604 bonus, $116,865 tax; Ben Thau, $107,069 bonus, $71,148 tax, and Larry Weingarten, $53,534 bonus, $28,784 tax.

Gaslight

to brighten
the way
to your
box-office!



(Below) *A few of the full-page ads to tell the nation of this great M-G-M production in Life, Look, McCall's, American Weekly, Liberty, Family Circle and many more.*









"Red Cross Drive! Collect every performance Every Day. March 23rd Through March 29th"

Samuel Goldwyn

who has discovered more movie star personalities than any other individual producer, has now discovered the greatest of them all . . . . . in . . . . . .



New York hails DANNY KAYE

"Danny Kaye belongs in the ranks of the great comic specialists of our day."
— Kate Cameron, N. Y. Daily News

"Danny Kaye is terrific and so is 'Up In Arms'."
— Frank Quinn, N. Y. Daily Mirror

"Danny Kaye is superbly funny."
— Howard Barnes, N. Y. Herald-Tribune

" . . . Introducing Danny Kaye . . . In this, his first picture, he shoots the works." *— Archer Winsten, N. Y. Post*

"If you never have seen Danny Kaye you have one of the most fantastic experiences of your theatre-going life ahead of you."
— Alton Cook, N. Y. World-Telegram

"Danny Kaye's comedy is fresh...his crazy, funny, double-talk songs are no less amusing on the screen than on the stage."
— Eileen Creelman, N. Y. Sun

"Gay comedy, lilting music, decorative choruses—and Danny Kaye."
—Rose Pelswick, N. Y. Journal-American

"Danny Kaye's debut in film of truly momentous significance....an explosively funny picture."
— McManus, PM

Hollywood hails DANNY KAYE

"A million laughs . . . After this picture, Danny Kaye will be known to every fan in America."
— Louella O. Parsons, L. A. Examiner

"Danny Kaye is a sensation in his film debut . . . 'Up In Arms' is Goldwyn at his best."
—Harrison Carroll, L. A. Herald-Express

"The devotees of Kaye thundered their appreciation . . . his efforts truly brought down the house."
— Edwin Schallert, L. A. Times

"Premiere established Danny Kaye as the most astonishing comedian of the era . . . he has no equal."
— Virginia Wright, L. A. Daily News

"THE MOVIE IS A HOWL."—*Life Magazine*

"'UP IN ARMS' IS A JOY FOREVER . . . DANNY KAYE STARTS OFF ON THE TOP RUNG OF THE LADDER." —*Liberty Magazine*

San Francisco hails DANNY KAYE

" 'Up In Arms' is a honey . . . Danny Kaye is perfect."
— Hortense Morton, S. F. Examiner

"Danny Kaye is on his way, and it looks as though a place with the top comics of the country is in the bag."
—M. J., S. F. Chronicle

"Danny Kaye is no less sensational than his advance notices . . . makes one long laugh of the Goldwyn extravaganza."
— Fred Johnson, S. F. Call-Bulletin

"Dig up all your superlatives for 'Up In Arms' . . . After audiences see Danny Kaye there will be no praise left for the rest of Hollywood." *— Emila Hodel, S. F. News*

DANNY KAYE

IN TECHNICOLOR



SAMUEL GOLDWYN'S

UP IN ARMS

with **DANNY KAYE • DINAH SHORE • DANA ANDREWS**
CONSTANCE DOWLING and the gorgeous GOLDWYN GIRLS

Associate Producer DON HARTMAN • Directed by ELLIOTT NUGENT

Original Screen Play by Don Hartman, Allen Boretz and Robert Pirosh

Released Through RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

Songs by Harold Arlen & Ted Koehler—Sylvia Fine & Max Liebman

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY RED CROSS WEEK MARCH 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Feb. 19	NINE GIRLS Ann Harding Evelyn Keyes Jinx Falkenburg Willard Robertson D—78 mins.	(Sixth Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)		(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)		CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE Joe E. Brown C—74 mins. (333)	(Block Three) AROUND THE WORLD Kay Kyser M—80 mins. (411)	THE SULLIVANS Thomas Mitchell Ann Baxter Trudy Marshall D—111 mins. (421)		WEEKEND PASS Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. D—63 mins. (8029)	IN OUR TIME Ida Lupino Paul Henreid D—110 mins. (311)
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C—61 mins.	THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315) ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)	STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)		THE BIG SHOW Gene Autry (reissue) O—(3302) HIDDEN VALLEY OUTLAWS Wild Bill Elliott O—56 mins. (378)	THE GHOST SHIP Richard Dix D—69 mins. (412) TARZAN'S DESERT MYSTERY Johnny Weismuller Nancy Kelly D—70 mins. (413)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M—(8011)	
Mar. 4		LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)		THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)	FRONTIER OUTLAWS Buster Crabbe O—(462)		ROOKIES IN BURMA Alan Carney Wally Brown C—62 mins. (414)	(March Release. No definite date set) PURPLE HEART Dana Andrews Tala Birell D—99 mins. (422)			FRISCO KID (reissue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11	HEY ROOKIE Ann Miller Joe Besser Larry Parks C—77 mins.	MADAME CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)		HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)	LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE Lionel Atwill Jean Parker D—(414)	THE FIGHTING SEABEES John Wayne Susan Hayward D—100 mins. (311)	HIGHER AND HIGHER Frank Sinatra Michele Morgan Jack Haley M—90 mins. (415)	4 JILLS IN A JEEP Carole Landis Martha Raye Dick Haymes C—(423)	VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	HAT CHECK HONEY Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett C—(8031)	PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE Humphrey Bogart Claude Rains D—110 mins.
Mar. 18	TWO-MAN SUBMARINE Tom Neal Ann Savage J. Carroll Naish D—62 mins.	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417)		TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)		MOJAVE FIREBRAND Wild Bill Elliott G. "Gabby" Hayes 55 mins.—(377)				LADIES COURAGEOUS Loretta Young Geraldine Fitzgerald Phillip Terry D—88 mins. (8065)	
Mar. 25	SUNDOWN VALLEY Charles Starrett Jeanne Bates Walter "Dub" Taylor O—55 mins.	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)		FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS D (Advance Price Engagements) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—168 mins.(4338)	THUNDERING GUN SLINGERS Buster Crabbe THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (English) D—(413)	MY BEST GAL Jane Withers Jimmy Lydon Frank Craven C-67 mins.	(Block Four)		SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Bonita Granville C	HI GOOD-LOOKIN' Harriet Hilliard Eddie Quillan Ozzie Nelson's Orchestra Jack Teagarden's Orchestra M—(8044)	
April 1	THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Gloria Stuart D	RATIONING Wallace Beery Marjorie Main C—93 mins. (418) A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	(Fourth Block) THE HITLER GANG Robert Watson Alexander Pope D—(4320)		THE LARAMIE TRAIL Bob Livingston "Smiley" Burnette O—56 min. (355) OUTLAWS OF SANTA FE Don "Red" Barry O—56 min. (366)	TENDER COMRADE Ginger Rogers Robert Ryan D—102 mins. (416)	(April Releases. No definite date set) BUFFALO BILL (Technicolor) Maureen O'Hara Joel McCrea D—(424) 90 mins.	UP IN MABEL'S ROOM Gail Patrick John Hubbard C		
April 8	COVER GIRL (Technicolor) Rita Hayworth Gene Kelly Phil Silvers Jinx Falkenburg M—107 mins.	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—114 mins. (419)		THE HOUR BEFORE THE DAWN Franchot Tone Veronica Lake D—75 mins. (4317)	GUNS OF THE LAW James Newill Tex O'Brien O	ROSIE, THE RIVETER Jane Frazee Frank Albertson Vera Vague C—75 mins. (313)	PASSPORT TO DESTINY Elsa Lanchester Gordon Oliver D—64 mins. (417)	TAMPICO Lynn Bari E. G. Robinson D—(425)		WEIRD WOMAN Lon Chaney Anne Gwynne Evelyn Ankers D	SHINE ON, HARVEST MOON Ann Sheridan Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—112 mins.
April 15	JAM SESSION Ann Miller Jess Barker M	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—101 mins. (420)	LADY, LET'S DANCE Belita James Ellison Frick & Frack M—84 mins. (301)	YOU CAN'T RATION LOVE Betty Rhodes Johnnie Johnston C—79 mins. (4318)	THE MONSTER MAKER D—62 mins. (419)	OH SUSANNA Gene Autry (reissue) O—(3303)	THE CURSE OF THE CAT PEOPLE Simone Simon Kent Smith D—70 mins. (418)		STRANGE CONFESSIONS Linda Darnell George Sanders D	HER PRIMITIVE MAN Louise Albritton Robert Paige D	
April 22	GIRL IN THE CASE Janice Carter Edmund Lowe—D WYOMING HURRICANE Russell Hayden—O	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)	HOT RHYTHM M—79 mins. Dona Drake Robert Lowery (314)	THE NAVY WAY Robert Lowery Jean Parker D—75 mins. (4316)	SHAKE HANDS WITH MURDER D—(422) PINTO BANDIT (Texas Rangers) O—(456)	TROCADERO Rosemary Lane Johnny Downs Bob Chester's Orch. M—74 mins. (314)	ESCAPE TO DANGER Eric Portman Ann Dvorak D—84 mins. (419)			MOON OVER LAS VEGAS Ann Gwynne David Bruce D	UNCERTAIN GLORY Errol Flynn Paul Lukas D
April 29	MISSION 36 Larry Parks Jeanne Bates John Carradine D	SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	OUTLAW TRAIL (Trailblazer) 53 mins. (364) O	(Special) LADY IN THE DARK (Technicolor) Ginger Rogers Ray Milland M—100 mins. (4336)	MEN OF THE SEA D—(420)		ACTION IN ARABIA George Sanders Virginia Bruce D—75 mins. (420) UP IN ARMS (special release) Danny Kaye Dinah Shore (Technicolor) C—105 mins. (452)		SENSATIONS OF 1944 W. C. Fields Eleanor Powell M	SLIGHTLY TERRIFIC Leon Errol Anne Rooney Evelyn Ankers C	

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 54 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1944 TEN CENTS

Distributors Allege Holdout Of $109,000

Charge That Much Is Due From Finkel Houses

PITTSBURGH, March 16.—Enumeration of the losses claimed in the film-rental percentage-falsification suits filed on Tuesday in Federal District Court here by the major distributors against William Finkel and Carson Amusement Co. shows a total of $109,000, with one of the plaintiffs, United Artists, not yet having made its estimate.

Attorneys for the majors, James H. Beal, Jr., Ernest Frey, and Reed, Smith, Shaw and McClay, claim $20,000 for Paramount, $25,000 for Loew's, $18,000 for 20th Century-Fox Film, $14,000 for Universal, $13,000 for RKO, $9,000 for Warners and $10,000 for Columbia.

The complaint states that on Dec. 4, 1943, the distributors asked Finkel,

(*Continued on page* 11)

Accessory Buying Is Up 30 Percent

With advertising space in newspapers shrinking in the face of newsprint restrictions, exhibitors' interest in accessories has been gaining ground, and, according to accessory heads in exchanges and home offices, promises to gain more ground, *Motion Picture Herald* will say today. Interest in outdoor advertising media also has been given an added impetus, with many exhibitors using appropriations

(*Continued on page* 11)

Kentucky Spared From Tax Increase

Frankfort, Ky., March 16.—Exhibitors and the public of this state were spared an additional ten percent ticket tax by adjournment here last night of the General Assembly without Senate action on House-approved bill No. 157 which would have raised the existing ten percent levy to 20.

The adjournment will last for two years, unless a special session is called and legislative interests here say it is unlikely that a special session would consider a ticket tax bill.

WLB Favors Extra Hour for Operators For Gain in Pay

The War Labor Board has approved the plan evolved by New York IATSE Projectionists' Local 306 whereby some 600 projectionists employed in 100 Loew and RKO theatres in the metropolitan area are given an opportunity to earn about $4.20 extra each week in lieu of an actual pay raise by working an extra hour and one-seventh weekly.

Discussions are underway now between Local 306 officials and representatives of some 200 circuit and independent theatres here who have contracts with the union to extend this plan to approximately 1,000 other projectionists.

It is not considered likely that other IATSE projectionists' locals in other cities will seek to institute a similar plan since it is pointed out that problems of the New York projectionists' local are unlike those elsewhere.

Forty on Industry Charity Committee

Forty executives of the film industry in the East have been named to the motion picture unit of the Archbishop's Committee of the Laity for this year's Catholic Charities Drive, April 30-May 10.

Alfred E. Smith is chairman of the general committee, of which John A. Coleman is executive chairman, Frank C. Walker is treasurer and George Schaefer is assistant treasurer. Co-chairmen of the film committee are John O'Connor and Bert Sanford.

Film committee members include

(*Continued on page* 11)

'A Burned Child . . .'

Chicago, March 16.—Heads of competing circuits here are declining to discuss their plans or arrangements for new admission prices starting April 1 and giving effect to the new Federal tax. Whenever the subject is mentioned they become mute and shy away from each other. The reason, they say, is that they were given the impression in the recent Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust trial here that anything construable as a price-fixing agreement may constitute a violation of the Sherman Act. Result: no one knows what the competition's new price scales will be.

Rank Seeking Key Theatres in France

LONDON, March 16.—J. Arthur Rank is arranging for the purchase of existing French key film theatres through the medium of Swiss financing houses, it is reported here. Rank is on record with declarations of post-war plans for the "invasion" of world screens with British product.

E. S. Luke, manager of the Leicester Square Theatre here, and one of Rank's key theatre operators, is said to have compiled a dossier on the European theatre situation, including information on the seating capacity of every major film house on the Continent, according to the report.

Luke acquired this data when he toured Europe before the war, superintending the installation of sound equipment in theatres. It is now being revised and reportedly will form the basis of Rank's move on the Continent immediately after the war.

WPB Warns Exhibitors On Shortage of Metals

WASHINGTON, March 16.—A copper supply situation tighter than any that has gone before is looming and may have a serious effect on the film industry, it was learned here today.

A tremendously increased demand for brass shell cases due to the abandonment of the use of steel, which has been found unsatisfactory, has changed what only a few weeks ago was an easy situation into one of great stringency, War Production Board officials admit.

Questioned regarding the situation

(*Continued on page* 11)

Rinzler to Preside at Robert Wolff Dinner

Sam Rinzler will be toastmaster at the Robert S. Wolff testimonial dinner Tuesday evening at the Waldorf Astoria here. Speakers will include Louis Nizer, Don Jaycocks, Ned Depinet, Si Fabian, Phil Reisman and Harry Brandt. Wolff will depart soon for London where he will serve as managing director for RKO.

Other industry leaders on the dais will be Edward L. Alperson, Charles

(*Continued on page* 11)

Receipts Are Up 25% Over One Year Ago

Key City Survey Shows Steady Weekly Gain

Film grosses are running about 25 per cent ahead of this time last year, according to MOTION PICTURE DAILY reports from field correspondents.

A weekly check from Christmas to the present, of between 117 and 161 downtown houses, in cities widely spotted over the country, shows the average per theatre to be running from $2,000 to $4,000 per week ahead of the comparable period in 1943. The greatest house average, $20,664, against a high of $15,742 for the same period one year ago, was noted during the first week in January, while the

(*Continued on page* 11)

Producers and 'IA' Nearing Agreement

Producer representatives and officials of the IATSE studio craft locals moved closer to accord on several of the IATSE general proposals for a new contract for these workers at yesterday's sessions at the office here of Pat Casey, producer labor contact. In view of the interlocking nature of some of the proposals, it is understood that final acceptance by the producers of any single IATSE proposal has been tabled for the time being.

Meetings between the IATSE and the producers will resume at Casey's office this morning.

Old Tax for Ticket Books Till April 1

Washington, March 16.—So-called seasonal or gift ticket books which are sold by theatres prior to April 1 are not subject to the new Federal admission tax even though the tickets are used after that date, according to Current Ruling 66,100 of the Internal Revenue Department. The ticket books may be sold at the current tax rate through March 31, contrary to a previous impression in the trade.

Personal Mention

CARL LESERMAN, United Artists general sales manager, is scheduled to leave for the Coast today.

•

MRS. ALICE CAMBORDE of 20th-Fox's home office photostat department, has left the company to await a "blessed event" in August.

•

TED SCHLANGER, Warner Theatres Philadelphia zone manager, and his assistant, LESTER KRIEGER, are in New York.

•

SYLVAN OESTREICHER and HARRY ARCHINAL will leave for the Coast today with JAMES MULVEY, vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc.

•

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA, M-G-M British production head, has left here for London.

•

JACK CHALMAN of the Texas Interstate Circuit publicity department, has been inducted into the Navy.

•

ADKINS LENOIR, manager of the Highland Theatre, San Antonio, is now a member of the Armed Forces.

•

W. C. GEHRING, 20th-Fox Western sales manager, has returned from Los Angeles.

•

LEO SCHAUER, 20th-Fox Chicago office manager, will be inducted into the Navy March 27.

•

ROBERT BUSCH, manager of Warner's Jeffrey theatre, Chicago, has been inducted into the service.

•

ALLEN POLEY, United Artists Chicago poster department head, was inducted into the Navy yesterday.

•

L. E. GOLDHAMMER, RKO Chicago district manager, is visiting in Minneapolis.

•

JOE DAVIDSON of 20th-Fox's Cleveland office is expected to arrive in Buffalo this week for a month's stay.

•

BERNARD LEVY, manager of Proven Pictures Theatre, Hartford, is in Boston.

•

ARNOLD PRESSBURGER, United Artists producer, is here from the Coast.

Drumm Will Tour For Depinet Drive

Frank L. Drumm, assistant to Nat Levy, RKO Radio's Eastern division sales manager, will leave today for Dallas to attend a joint meeting of Dallas and Oklahoma City branches to be held on Monday in conjunction with the 1944 Ned Depinet Drive. Campaign captain Charles Boasberg will preside.

Following the meeting, Drumm will accompany Boasberg and Harry Michalson, short subjects sales manager, on a tour of the company's Eastern branches.

Limitations Statute In Prefect Hearing

NEW HAVEN, March 16.—Judge Carroll Hicks, presiding in Federal Court here at the trial of the Prefect anti-trust suit against the majors, indicated today, following arguments, that he would hold the statute of limitations applicable in the case. Thus, if there should be a verdict for the plaintiffs, they could only recover losses incurred during the three years prior to bringing action.

Cross-examination of E. J. Peskay, former operator of the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, was completed today, following which, in answer to a question from Judge Hicks, he admitted that, as buyer for Skouras Theatres in 1933, he had "participated in the creation and maintenance of clearance" of Stamford and Portchester over Greenwich, to which he had objected on the stand. Peskay added, however, that he believed from the beginning that the clearance was "unfair, inequitable and illegal."

The plaintiffs' second witness, Corp. William Brown, formerly assistant to Peskay and now on furlough from the Army to appear at the trial, today began testimony as to conversations with distributor representatives about bookings, etc.

Joseph Berry, defense counsel, introduced a letter written by a Department of Justice official to a Greenwich selectman, which Berry claimed indicated that the Department would not sanction purchase of the Pickwick by Loew's, Inc., a deal the plaintiffs had said fell through in 1939.

BFPA to Sponsor Ostrer U. S. Visit

LONDON, March 16.—The British Film Producers Association, at the instance of Isidore Ostrer, former Gaumont-British official, has agreed to send Ostrer on a visit to the United States as its unofficial emissary. Ostrer will seek conferences with representative members of the American industry with a view to reporting back to the BFPA on prospects of production, distribution and exhibition collaboration by America with British producers.

Heads of major company foreign departments in New York and the MPPDA said yesterday that they knew nothing of Ostrer's projected visit here and no engagements to meet with him have been scheduled.

Parliament Receives Projector from Rank

LONDON, March 16. — J. Arthur Rank's gift of a projector was received today for Parliament by high-ranking members of that group, including Sir Anthony Eden.

The Lord Chancellor and the speaker of the House of Commons both praised Rank's endeavors to raise the prestige of the British film industry and also emphasized the paramount importance of the screen, not only in the entertainment, but in the educational and sociological fields as well.

Coast Flashes

JOHN WOOLFENDEN of the Paramount publicity department, will become Whitney Bolton's assistant at Columbia on Monday. Teet Carle has been appointed to publicity manager at Paramount, where Blake McVeigh will remain as assistant to George Brown.

•

Edgar J. Mannix, M-G-M studio executive, will fly to Mexico City April 5 for a brief vacation, after which he will continue to South America on business for the studio and the industry generally.

•

Rouben Mamoulian has been signed by 20th Century-Fox to direct "Laura," a mystery thriller starring Jennifer Jones; Otto Preminger will produce.

•

Producer Irving Briskin left today for New York to hold conferences and look over story material.

•

Moss Hart left here by plane today for New York.

Tax Rule Prevents 45c and 75c Charges

Exhibitor practice of setting back admission-plus-tax totals as a "reduced admission price" in order to have even-money charges must be discontinued when the new Federal tax law goes into effect April 1, according to a ruling by the Internal Revenue Department of the U. S. Treasury.

Theatres seeking a new 75-cent total cannot achieve it because a 63-cent basic price plus the 13-cent tax would come to 76 cents; and, if the basic price were dropped back to 62 the tax would drop to 12, making a total of 74. The same would be true of an effort to obtain an even 45 cents.

Burnside Made Film Liaison for Britain

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—William H. Burnside has taken over as British government film liaison officer in the United States, where he will help producers plan pictures with English backgrounds and, when possible, help secure stars from England if they are wanted. He will also facilitate visits to his country for American producers, directors and writers who need to obtain background.

After two or three months in Hollywood, Burnside will make his headquarters in New York.

Not Dropping 'Kenny'

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—Denying reports that "outside pressure" had caused RKO to abandon "Sister Kenny," production vice-president Charles W. Koerner declared today, following conferences with Sister Kenny and Rosalind Russell, the star, that shooting would start by Nov. 1.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
DANNY KAYE
"UP IN ARMS"
Dinah Shore • Constance Cummings
In Technicolor Released thru RKO
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. CIrcle 6-4600

AFTER VICTORY—WHAT? POST-WAR JOBS? LATEST MARCH OF TIME
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S
"The PURPLE HEART"
PLUS ON STAGE—COUNT BASIE and ORCH.—CAROL BRUCE—ZERO MOSTEL
BUY MORE BONDS ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
NOW PLAYING
Maria Montez • Jon Hall
Turhan Bey
'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Dorothy LAMOUR
Dick POWELL
in Technicolor
"RIDING HIGH"
In Person
Molly PICON
Extra
THE STARDUSTERS

Alfred Hitchcock's
LIFEBOAT
By JOHN STEINBECK
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
ASTOR B'WAY & 45th ST.
Continuous Performances

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 10 a. m.
Rivoli B'way & 49th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address. "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

THERE'LL BE A NURSE THERE WHEN HE NEEDS HER



Among its many services the Red Cross recruited 50,000 nurses for the Army and Navy

YOUR



IS AT HIS SIDE

A COLLECTION AT EVERY PERFORMANCE

MOTION PICTURE THEATRES
RED CROSS WEEK
MARCH 23-29

This space contributed by.....Republic Pictures Corporation

Industry Advances Red Cross Drive

IAtoCooperate On Overtime During Drive

Formal approval of a previously reported contemplation on the part of the IATSE to cooperate with the industry's Red Cross drive, March 23-29, was announced here yesterday by Louis Krouse, IA's general secretary-treasurer.

Krouse promised cooperation wherever the problem of overtime resulted because of exhibitors running the collection trailer and collecting from audiences at every performance.

In a letter to Joseph Bernhard, industry drive chairman, pledging support, Krouse said that "Our organization, as usual, will cooperate to the fullest extent with the motion picture industry's Red Cross drive. Should you run into any difficulties in the theatres which participate, call on the general office and we will endeavor to be helpful in adjusting any situation that may arise."

Cites Trade Press Aid to Red Cross

"The generous aid and support given by the trade press to the WAC-motion picture theatres' 1944 Red Cross drive committee in getting its message in behalf of the drive before American showmen is bringing results far beyond our highest expectations," Charles Smakwitz of Warner Theatres and publicity chairman for the campaign, observed to MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday.

Elsewhere it was learned that 13,000 individual theatres have been pledged to date to participate in the drive, against a March of Dimes high of 7,000 pledged.

Another Alaska Pledge

The War Activities Committee for the industry's Red Cross campaign here has received another pledge from Alaska, from B. E. Abegglen of the Revilla Theatre in Ketchikan.

Delaware Exceeds R. C. Pledge Quota

Delaware follows Newark and Albany in exceeding its quota of pledges for the industry's 1944 Red Cross theatre collection week. Joseph DiFiore, local exhibitor chairman, yesterday reported 34 pledges already received despite an original listing of only 32 possibilities.

From New Haven, exhibitor chairman, I. J. Hoffman, reports that every one of the 195 theatres in the territory has been signed for the campaign.

Ricketson Builds Denver Campaign

DENVER, March 16.—A flat car has been roaming the tracks of the street railway system here for two weeks with displays changed daily, in the interest of the Red Cross drive collections in motion picture theatres. F. H. ("Rick") Ricketson, Jr., local exhibitor chairman, has arranged an extensive campaign to promote the drive.

A large neon Red Cross has been installed against a background of a 24-sheet on the site of Pioneer Monument. A scene of the Red Cross in action at Tarawa has been placed in a prominent window of J. C. Penney & Co. Street flags are all over the downtown section. At Court House Square, in the heart of the city, Army and Red Cross mobile units have been on display.

Speakers will be used on the stages of all key theatres during the week of collections. Radio transcriptions and newspaper stories will be employed to tell the public about theatre collections.

Skit Aids Red Cross

MILWAUKEE, March 16.—A pantomime skit about blood donations, put on by the local Allen Bradley Dramatic Club, was a highlight of this city's WAC-motion picture theatres' division 1944 Red Cross drive meeting at the Hotel Schroeder here.

'Memphis Belle' Is Impressive Picture

In "The Memphis Belle," presented by the War Department and photographed by the U. S. Eighth Army Air Force, there emerges one of the finest documentaries born of the war, encompassing in its 41 minutes running time a completely absorbing tale of the famous plane that completed 25 bombing missions in the toughest of European air combat zones. The result is an almost personal experience for the onlooker.

The loss of one of our planes is recorded as the tight formations of Fortresses plunge through enemy defenses at Wilhelmshaven, Nazi submarine base, with the crew of the "Belle" shouting unheeded advice to the crew of the stricken ship who can be seen "bailing out." Then there is the tenseness of waiting for the returning planes, some of whose crews come back with bodies smashed by flak; and there is the warm humor of a ground crewman nonchalantly playing his harmonica perched on a bomb being trundled to one of the planes.

Made by Air Force Unit

Faultlessly compiled by the Army Air Forces First Motion Picture Unit at the Hal Roach Studios, photography was in charge of Lt.-Col. William Wyler, assisted by Major William C. Clothier and Lt. Harold Tannenbaum, former RKO sound technician, who enlisted despite his 47 years, and was killed in action. The film was photographed in 16mm. Kodachrome. Commentary was written by Tech. Sgt. Lester Koenig and incidental animation is by Major Rudolf Ising.

The film is being distributed by Paramount for the Office of War Information. Theatres that play it not only will contribute a patriotic service but also will put upon their screens an impressive war documentary.

Release date, April 14. C. R.

Graham to 'Coronet'

Joel Graham, formerly with the Eastern story departments of M-G-M and Samuel Goldwyn, has been named an editor of *Coronet* magazine.

'Bernadette', In 3rd Week, Dominates Chi.

CHICAGO, March 16.—In the third week of its Midwest roadshow premiere, "The Song of Bernadette" continued to lead, capturing $48,000 at the State-Lake Theatre.

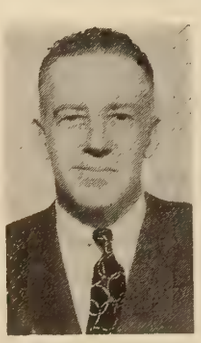
Estimated receipts for the week ending March 18:

"Rationing" (M-G-M)
"Henry Aldrich, Boy Scout" (Para.)
APOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $11,400).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
CHICAGO—(3,850) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. 2nd week. Stage: Lou Breese and Band. Gross: $42,000. (Average: $51,500).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,100).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd Loop week. Gross: $14,000 (Average: $9,100).
"Weekend Pass" (Univ.)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days. Stage: Earl Carroll Vanities. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Government Girl" (RKO)
"Escape to Danger" (RKO)
PALACE—(2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Desert Song" (WB) 6 days, 4th week
"Purple Heart" (20th-Fox) 1 day
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $36,000. (Average: $20,400).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
STATE-LAKE—(2,700) (50c-65c-75c-85c-$1.10) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $48,000. (Average: $29,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $20,200).
"Crime School" (WB) and "Girls on Probation" (WB) 2 days, 3rd week
"The Lady and the Monster" (Rep.) 5 days
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $10,000).

'Wassell' Opens April 26

World premiere of "The Story of Dr. Wassell" will be held at the Capital and Arkansas theatres, Little Rock, Ark., April 26. Cecil B. DeMille and Commander Corydon Wassell will be present at this opening in the city where the Commander was born. They will also attend a Red Cross preview screening at Washington April 1.

Industry Executives Tour Country for Drive



A. W. Smith, Jr.



Martin Smith



H. M. Richey



Leon Bamberger



A. Montague

LET'S GIVE!

RED CROSS WAR FUND

If every American could follow the Red Cross down the battle-lines of our beach-heads, our mountain trenches, and our jungle outposts, they would say: "God bless the Red Cross. They shall never appeal to me for support, in vain. They are not only a heaven-sent agency for the saving of lives; but they are one of our most powerful morale-sustaining forces as well. What, indeed, would we ever do without them?"

And if the Red Cross did nothing more than handle the avalanche of messages between service men and their families, this great American angel of mercy would still have first claim upon our affections, our patriotism, and our pocketbooks.

Requests for emergency communication service are pouring into Red Cross headquarters now, at the rate of 20,000 a month. But recently, that figure was swelled to 142,000 messages for a single day.

Make sure you help the Red Cross, by having a collection taken up in your theatre, at every performance!

THEY DO NOT FAIL US . . .
WE SHALL NOT FAIL THEM



THIS ADVERTISEMENT CONTRIBUTED BY NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE, INC.

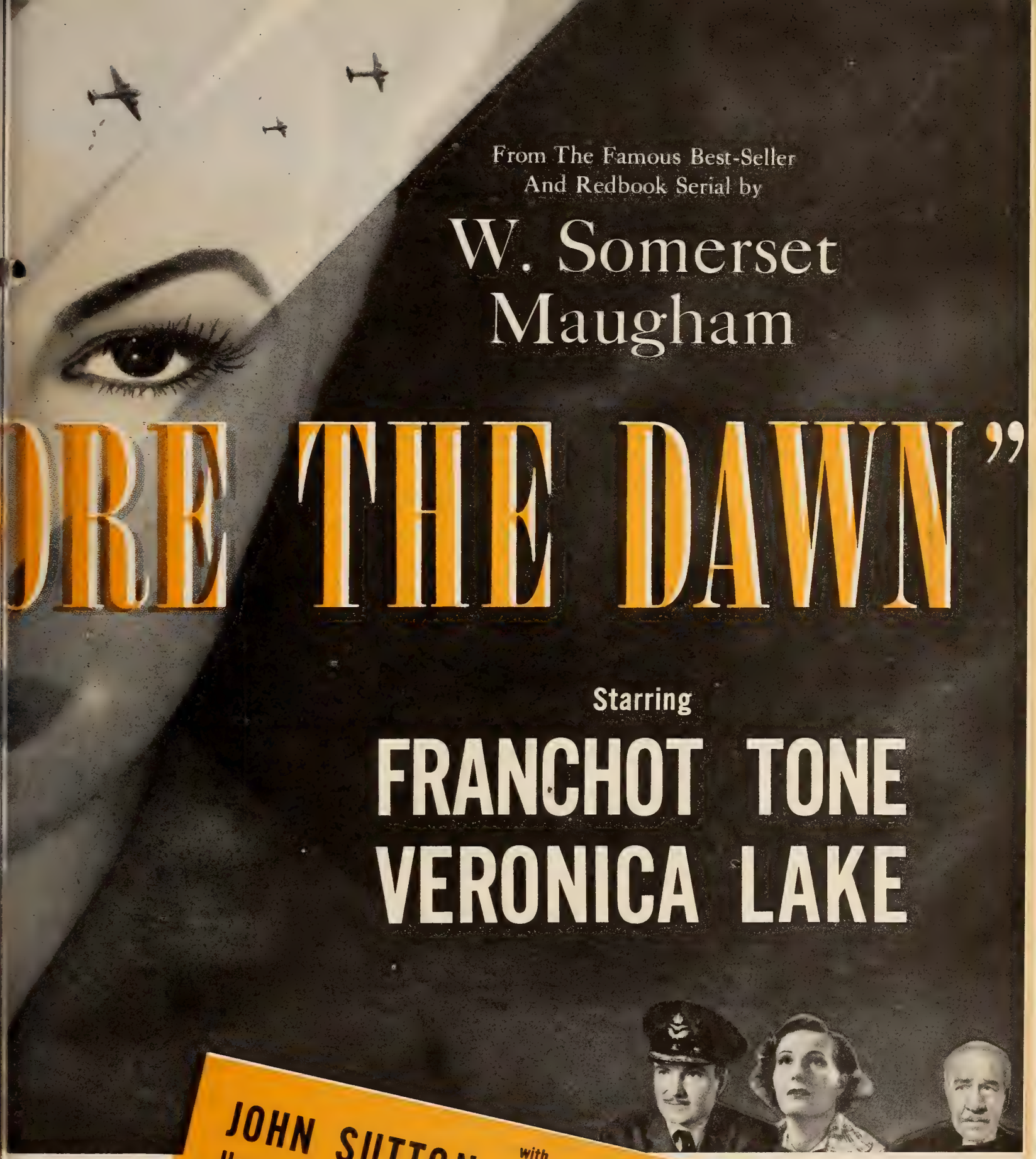
MOTION
ICTURE
NDUSTRY

RED CROSS WEEK

MARCH 23-29



Pre-sold to 25,000,000 listeners by Veronica Lake on the Kate Smith Hour, March 17th, over 121 Stations. Fourth in this sensational series of Kate Smith-Paramount broadcasts!



From The Famous Best-Seller
And Redbook Serial by

W. Somerset Maugham

ORE THE DAWN"

Starring

FRANCHOT TONE
VERONICA LAKE

with

JOHN SUTTON • BINNIE BARNES
Henry Stephenson • Philip Merivale • Nils Asther

Directed by Frank Tuttle · Screen Play by Michael Hogan · Adaptation by Lesser Samuels

From PARAMOUNT

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
RED CROSS WEEK
MARCH 23-30

'Bernadette' Takes $32,500 in Second San Francisco Week

SAN FRANCISCO, March 16.—"Song of Bernadette" headed for $32,500 in its second big week at the Paramount, with "Lady in the Dark" and "Coastal Command" set to match that figure at the Fox. Also excellent was the second week of "Up in Arms," with vaudeville, at the Golden Gate. Weather was excellent.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 13:

"Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
"Moonlight in Vermont" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $11,000).
"The Impostor" (Univ.)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,600. (Average: $14,800).
"Cry Havoc" (M-G-M)
WARFIELD—(2,680) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $22,300. (Average: $21,800).
"Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"My Best Gal" (Rep.)
STATE—(2,306) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,200. (Average: $12,100).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
"Coastal Command" (RKO)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $32,500. (Average: $24,000).
"Up in Arms" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $25,000).
"Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
PARAMOUNT—(2,740) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $32,500. (Average: $19,600).
"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
"Gildersleeve on Broadway" (RKO)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $11,600).

Audience in Millions For Hospital Films

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Motion picture service to soldiers in Army hospitals in this country had a total audience in the millions last year, in addition to the shows given to a total audience of other millions in hospitals overseas, it was reported here tonight by the American Red Cross.

Two shows a week are provided in 247 hospital recreation buildings and 416 wards in this country, and in 350 hospitals overseas, comprised of the latest features and shorts of all the major companies, it was stated. Shows, as a rule, are limited to 80 minutes so as not to tire patients.

Review

"Ladies Courageous"

(Universal)

WALTER WANGER'S "Ladies Courageous" is built around the unsung Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squad, now the WASPS, who fly planes to allied bomber bases all over the world. A splendid cast includes Loretta Young, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Richard Fraser, Anna Gwynne and Diana Barrymore. All do well in striving to overcome a story which starts out nicely, but slowly develops into a series of anti-climaxes which cause each succeeding dramatic event to lose its intended impact. Nevertheless the film will appeal to women for its characterizations of those American women who choose to serve on dangerous air assignment to speed victory.

Miss Young, wife of a combat pilot, in command of the first of the WAFS, aims at recognition of her group as part of the regular Ferrying Service, but is stopped at every turn—usually by her sister, a glamorous WAF with egomaniacal tendencies. A crash causes a proposed overseas flight of the girls' squadron to be grounded. Meanwhile, Miss Young's husband is reported missing in action. Finally authorities consent to the WAF's taking off as originally scheduled, following the loss of a flight of male ferry pilots. At this point the missing husband arrives at the field. There is a brief reunion and the wife takes off with her squadron for allied bases abroad.

John Rawlins directed from a screenplay by Norman Reilly Raine and Doris Gilbert.

Running time, 88 mins. "G."* Release date, March 17.

HELEN McNAMARA

*"G" denotes general classification.

'Lorraine' and Show Rate Nice $16,500

OMAHA, March 16.—"The Cross of Lorraine" and Glen Gray's orchestra on the stage of the Orpheum grossed $16,500. "Fighting Seabees" and "Career Girl" gave the Brandeis a very good $8,600. Weather was ideal.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 15-16:

'Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
"Career Girl" (PRC)
BRANDEIS—(1,205) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $8,600. (Average: $6,500).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
OMAHA—(2,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $9,100. (Average $7,900).
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Glen Gray's orchestra on stage. Gross $16,500. (Average: $14,9000).
"Standing Room Only" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $10,600. (Average: $11,700).

Moger Host to Press

BOSTON, March 16.—Arthur Moger, recently named New England publicity director for Warners, was host at an informal gathering for the press, following his first tour of the circuit.

'Miracle's $20,000 Leads in Baltimore

BALTIMORE, March 16. — Strong product and good weather accounted for considerably above average grosses. "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" leads with $20,000 at the Stanley.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 16:

"The Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $16,000).
"The Uninvited" (Para.)
KEITH'S—(2,403) (30c-35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $13,900).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (83c-$1.10) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: at regular prices, $10,300).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-50c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average $16,900).
"The Frisco Kid" (WB)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,400).
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average $7,500).
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
HIPPODROME — (2,205) (28c-30c-45c-55c) 7 days. On Stage: Martha Raye, Condos Bros., Three Swifts, Roy Smeck, Winter Sister. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $17,500).

Gehring Again Head Of 'Fox Family Club'

William C. Gehring, Western sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, has been reelected president of the "Fox Family Club," it was disclosed here yesterday. Other officers chosen were: Tom Connors, first vice-president; Lew Lehr, second vice-president; Jack Sichelman, third vice-president; Harry Reinhardt, treasurer; Elsie Boland Collins, secretary, and a board of governors consisting of Doris Adelman, Hettie Gray Baker, Morris Breggin, Francis X. Carroll, William Freedman, Maurice Goodman, Frank Kelly, E. H. McFarland, Robert Montgomery, Anne Schneider, J. Seco, Stella Sidel, R. B. Simonson, Dan Smolen, Julia Wolpin and the six officers.

At the meeting, Stella Sidel, secretary to A. W. Smith, Jr., won a $500 war bond.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.
SAN FRANCISCO
TRADE SHOWING
of
"THE FALCON OUT WEST"
MONDAY, APRIL 3, AT 10:30 A.M.
RKO PROJECTION ROOM
251 Hyde Street, San Francisco, Calif.

'Random Harvest' Wins Gallup Poll

M-G-M's "Random Harvest," cited for Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences honors in 1942, and Warners' "Casablanca," Academy 1943 winner picture, have been selected by the public as the two most popular pictures of 1943, according to a nation-wide survey conducted by Audience Research, Inc., (Gallup Poll). "Random Harvest" was included in the 1943 poll because it was exhibited chiefly in 1943, although released late in 1942.

Audience Research asked for votes solely on the basis of how well pictures were liked. After the first two, industry opinion and that of filmgoers cease to parallel. The next six selected by the public were: "This Is the Army," "Stage Door Canteen," "Mr. Lucky," "So Proudly We Hail," "Coney Island," and "The More the Merrier."

"For Whom the Bell Tolls," "The Song of Bernadette," and "Madame Curie" were not considered because the poll was limited to releases of Jan. 1 to Dec. 1, 1943, and films released later than Dec. 1 were felt to have insufficient circulation to be included.

'Purple Heart' Is Pittsburgh Winner

PITTSBURGH, March 16.—Although bad weather lifted here this week, theatre attendance still lagged. The leader was "The Purple Heart," which promised $14,000 at the Harris.

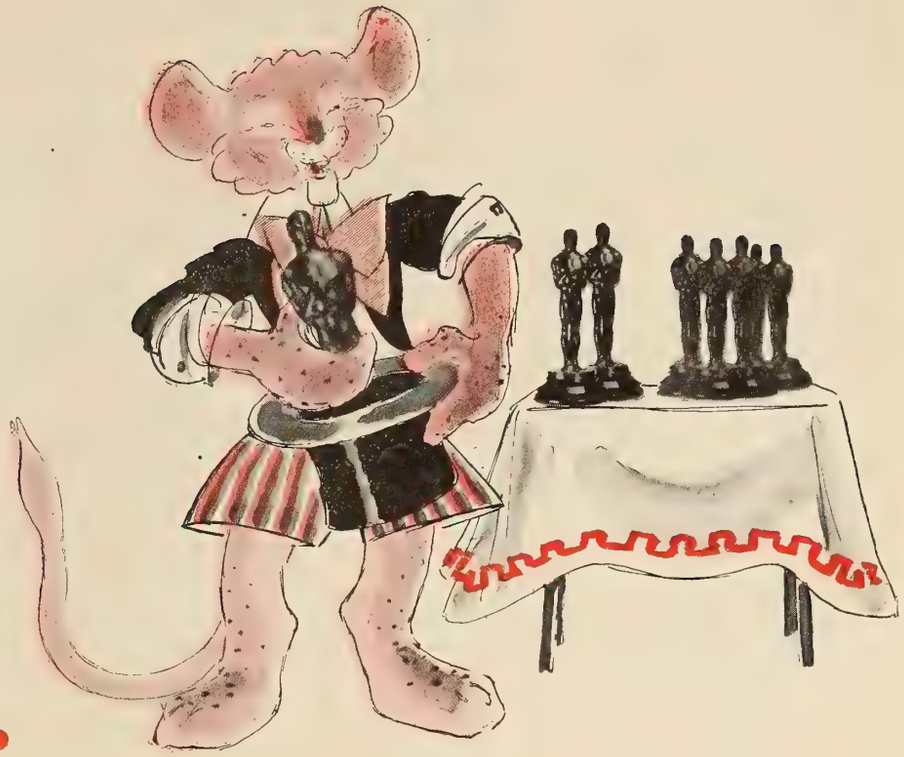
Estimated receipts for the week ending March 14-17:

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,100).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
HARRIS — (2,200) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $10,100).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $19,800).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
RITZ—(1,100) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 4th week, moveover after two weeks at the Penn, one at the Warner. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $2,700).
"A Star Is Born" (re-issued by Kreiger)
"Made for Each Other (re-isued by Kreiger)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $3,400).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,800) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross, 17,500. (Average, $20,900).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
WARNER—(2,000) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the Penn. Gross, $8,000. (Average, $8,500).

Players Will Attend 'Navy Way' Premiere

Susan Hayward, Albert Dekker, Phyllis Brooks, Jean Heather and Robert Lowery will leave Hollywood tomorrow for a week of ceremonies in connection with the March 24 world premiere of "The Navy Way," Paramount's Pine-Thomas production, at Great Lakes Naval Training Station and the public premiere at nearby Waukegan, Ill. Co-producer William Pine will also be on hand.

The program, starting next Monday, will include daily radio broadcasts, a reception for the press, visits to the Naval Hospital, and a dinner, March 23, given by Jules J. Rubens, vice-president and general manager of Publix-Great States Theatres.



NEVER MISSES A TRICK...

This year again, M-G-M's Leo Junior has claimed the lion's share of Academy honors with 2 out of 3 of the industry's best shorts for 1942-43—

"HEAVENLY MUSIC"—*Two-Reel Special*
Directed by Josef Berne • Co-Produced by Jerry Bresler and Sam Coslow

"YANKEE DOODLE MOUSE"—M-G-M *Technicolor Cartoon*
Directed by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera • Produced by Fred Quimby

With a total of 13 Oscars to his credit, (nearly twice as many as his closest competitor) little Leo confidently announces his Academy contender for the year ahead . . .

"MAIN STREET TODAY"

The stirring story of how the Main Streets of America have become the world's highroad to victory!

A Timely Two-Reel Special
Narrated by **JOHN NESBITT**

BOOK IT NOW! *Ready for release March 25th*

M-G-M . . . *the long and short of it!*

'Phantom Lady' and Show Net $28,000

CINCINNATI, March 16.—Business continues good here, with "The Phantom Lady" at the RKO Albee and Woody Herman and his band plus acts on the stage heading for an estimated $28,000. "Up in Arms" should give the RKO Palace around $17,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 15-17:

"The Phantom Lady" (Univ.)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: Woody Herman and band, Lenny Gale and Marion Daniels. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $22,000).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Voodoo Man" (Mono.)
"Riders of the Deadline" (UA)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,450. (Average: $1,400).
"Lady in Distress" (British-Fama)
"The Drifter" (PRC)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $800. (Average: $800).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,500).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week, moveover from the RKO Shubert, after initial week at the RKO Palace. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,200).
"Up in Arms" (RKO-Goldwyn)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $15,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
RKO SHUBERT—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the RKO Palace. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,000).

'Bernadette' Rates Splendid $19,000

ST. LOUIS, March 16.—At advanced prices "The Song of Bernardette" at the Ambassador is leading here with an estimated $19,000.

Income tax deadline and unseasonable March weather held attendance at other first runs to about normal.

Estimates receipts for the week ending March 15:

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
"Timber Queen" (Para.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,700).
"The Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
"Two Man Submarine" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $18,900).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
AMBASSADOR—(3,154) (75c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $15,700).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"In Our Time" (WB)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,900).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week (4th in St Louis). Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,100).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,100).
"Around the World" (RKO)
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,200).

3,326 From 20th-Fox Are in Armed Forces

Figures compiled by the home office of 20th Century-Fox show a total of 3,326 employes in the armed forces, an increase of eight over last week. Seventeen others received notices to report for examinations next week. Fifteen are married.

Review

"Nine Girls"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, March 16

WITH names like Ann Harding, Evelyn Keyes, Jinx Falkenburg and Anita Louise for the marquee, showmen have here a pleasant little picture which is well above standard for this type of mystery drama. The Sam Bischoff-Burt Kelly production takes every advantage of an intelligent screenplay by Karen DeWolff and Connie Lee, as well as of the pictorial possibilities of nine lovely young ladies in a sylvan setting.

One of the nine, intensely disliked by the other eight, is murdered on the eve of the initiation festivities of the Gamma Theta sorority. The remaining collegiennes, together with their chaperone, are marooned in a mountain cabin during the subsequent attempts of William Robertson and William Demarest, as a police captain and his assistant, to solve the crime. Their sleuthing is impeded by the girls' own efforts to help, all of which leads to plenty of laugh-provoking lines and comedy situations. Much of the fun is provided by Jeff Donnell as Butch, an athletic young lady with a penchant for pistol-practice and dart-throwing.

Ann Harding plays the chaperone with skill and finesse, and Anita Louise, as the murdered girl, makes the most of her brief part. Lynn Merrick contributes an amusing characterization as a stage-struck youngster. The other young ladies, too, handle their roles with cleverness. The resultant production is an intelligent and satisfying job, with Leigh Jackson's direction setting a fast pace and keeping the proceedings full of suspense.

Running time, 75 minutes. "G."* Release date, February 17.

THALIA BELL

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Tender Comrade' Duals for $12,000

KANSAS CITY, March 16.—Grosses dropped further under last week's moderate totals. "Tender Comrade" coupled with "Rookies in Burma" at the Orpheum in its second week aimed for $12,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 14-17:

"Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (85c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $5,500 (Average: $6,000).
"Rationing" (M-G-M)
"Woman of the Town" (UA)
MIDLAND—(3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $14,000).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Nabonga" (PRC)
"Tiger Fangs" (PRC)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,400).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (85c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $5,600).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
FAIRWAY—(700) (85c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $1,450. (Average: $1,600).

14 M-G-M Branches Give 80 to Service

M-G-M reported here this week a continuing depletion of its field sales ranks to the armed forces, citing 14 of its exchanges as having lost more than 80, typifying the situation throughout the country. Many others are marked for early calls.

'Battle of Europe' Next

"The Battle of Europe," next release in "The World in Action" series, is being prepared by Stuart Legg, editor of the series. The film depicts the Allied air offensive and will be distributed in the U. S. and England by United Artists. The series is produced by the National Film Board of Canada.

'Curie' Is $6,000 Over Toronto Par

TORONTO, March 16.—"Madame Curie" at Loew's Theatre bid an indicated $17,200 gross here this week. Third week of "Desert Song" pointed to $11,300 at Shea's.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 16:

"Watch on the Rhine" (WB)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,000).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,800. (Average: $12,800).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $17,200. (Average: $11,200).
"Desert Song" (WB)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,300. (Average: $12,800).
"There's Something About a Soldier" (Col.)
"Sweet Rosie O'Grady" (20th-Fox) moveover.
TIVOLI—(1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $4,400. (Average: $4,400).
"Phantom Lady" (Univ.)
"Sing A Jingle" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $10,800. (Average: $9,800).

To Play French Films

MONTREAL, March 16.—"Le Ciel et Toi" ("All This and Heaven Too"), first of a series of Warner releases in French, will follow its recent experimental engagement at the Capitol, Quebec City, by opening at the Orpheum here on April 7, according to Wolfe Cohen, Warner's Canadian district manager.

Cohen said that as soon as the Orpheum plays off its present commitments it will become the Quebec "show window" for the company's French-dubbed pictures.

'Lady' Sets Precedent

DES MOINES, March 16.—For the first time in this city a film will open simultaneously in three theatres when "Lady in the Dark" makes its bow April 6 at the Des Moines, Roosevelt and Paramount, Tri-State houses.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 16

THE Hollywood beat is constantly growing in importance, according to records of newspaper coverage given the production scene here. The latest along that line is that Associated Press has engaged J. M. Kendrick, former head of that associations' special service, to write a series of stories on screen personalities. These will be in addition to the daily wire column written by James Lindsley, former Hollywood *Citizen-News* reporter, now with AP here.

●

The CIAA's campaign to enhance the good-neighbor aspects of production has budded another promising blossom with announcement of plans of Arthur Freed, M-G-M producer, to do a Mexican musical titled "Holiday in Mexico." Preparations are well under way with Freed planning to use an all-star cast of singers and dancers. . . . Alexander-Stern, PRC producers, have started preparation on "Suspects," a murder mystery with a shopping center locale. Elmer Clifton is scripting and will direct.

●

Gloria De Haven will really seem to "set 'em on fire" in a dance number with a bevy of chorines in RKO-Radio's "Manhattan Serenade," starring Frank Sinatra. As Gloria and the girls do their dance steps, sparks fly from the floor and wisps of smoke spurt out from their tapping feet. . . . Andrew Stone's "Sensations of 1944" sets some sort of musical record. During the 100 minutes of running time there will be 80 minutes of music.

●

With three new pictures starting the first ten days of March, M-G-M will hit its peak for the year with 11 on the stages. The new ones scheduled to start are: "Maisie Goes to Reno," "Mrs. Parkington," "The Picture of Dorian Grey." . . . Monogram's "Lady Let's Dance" had a pre-release booking at the Garrick Theatre, Duluth, Minn., March 10. . . . Raymond Massey joins Merle Oberon and Edward G. Robinson in International's "Once Off Guard."

Spoor, Others to Be Variety Club Guests

CHICAGO, March 16.—George K. Spoor, veteran of the industry, will be among the guests at a "pioneers' night" dinner being sponsored by the Variety Club here on March 31 at the Blackstone Hotel. The affair was originally set for March 24. Spoor started in 1895, when he became interested in a projection machine created by E. H. Amet. In 1907, he and G. M. Anderson formed the old Essanay company.

Other guests who have accepted invitations are Sam Abrahams, Morris Choynski, Norman Fields, H. Goldson, Sam Levin, A. W. Roth, Ludwig Schindler, Harry Tague, Frank Gazzola and Frank Thielin.

Vogel in Hospital

William M. Vogel, who was recently stricken in his office, 11 West 42nd St., has been removed to Ossining Hospital, Ossining, N. Y., from his home at Croton, N. Y. Vogel is well-known in film export circles here.

'Purple Heart' Dual Takes $7,800 Over

DENVER, March 16.—"The Purple Heart" on a dual at the Denver is expected to gross $20,800 while "The Song of Bernadette," a moveover at the Aladdin, is headed for $10,000 or double par there. "Gung Ho" in its second week at the Paramount is expected to reach $15,750.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 13-15:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
ALADDIN—(1,400) (Special prices of 75c-$1.12) 7 days, moveover. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $5,000).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
BROADWAY—(1,040) (30c-40c-50c-60c-) 7 days, moveover. Gross: $4,375. (Average: $2,500).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
"Weekend Pass" (Univ.)
DENVER (2,600) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $20,800. (Average: $13,000).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
"Timber Queen" (Para.)
DENHAM—(1,750) (30c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $7,000).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
"Weekend Pass" (Univ.)
ESQUIRE—(740) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,100. (Average $3,000).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,200) (30c-40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,750. (Average: $9,000).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
RIALTO—(900) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days, moveover. Gross: $7,590. (Average: $4,600).

Suits Against Finkel Seek Over $109,000

(*Continued from page* 1)

as manager of the Carson company, to make an audit; that permission was refused, and that the distributors now ask the court to rule that pending an audit or producing of the books, the theatres (Arcade and Colonial, both on the South Side) be enjoined or restrained from disposing of or altering the books.

The losses claimed, as reported Wednesday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, are based on alleged retention by the theatres of percentages claimed by distributors to have been concealed parts of gross receipts. It is also charged that checkers were induced to join in falsifying written reports.

Rinzler to Preside at Robert Wolff Dinner

(*Continued from page* 1)

Boasberg (who replaces Wolff as RKO's New York exchange manager), Leo Brecher, Max Cohen, Phil Hodes, Malcolm Kingsberg, Charles C. Moskowitz, N. Peter Rathvon, Edward Rugoff, Fred J. Schwartz, Walter Vincent, William White and Mrs. Robert Wolff. The testimonial is being sponsored by theatre owners of the New York area, and tickets are still obtainable at the ITOA offices.

Fire Destroys Theatre

ATLANTA, March 16.—Damages estimated at $30,000 were caused by a fire which destroyed the Alpha Theatre in nearby Douglasville. Senator Alpha Jones, owner, stated that plans have already been started to rebuild.

75 Houses in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, March 16.—There are now 75 theatres here, including first and subsequent runs, according to an announcement by the National Cinematographic Industry Chamber. Four additional theatres are under construction.

Theatre Grosses Are Up 25 Percent Over Last Year

(*Continued from page* 1)

week just ended was also impressive; $16,758, in 1944; against $12,878 in the same week in 1943.

Continuing high earnings by the public, reflected in plenty to spend for entertainment, and a public desire for entertainment, are held basically responsible for increased business.

A consideration of pictures now standing out at box offices indicates that the customers are in the mood both for serious war stories as well as lighter entertainment. Some films that have been money-making leaders during the past several weeks, as reported by DAILY correspondents, include: Twentieth-Fox: "The Song of Bernadette," "Jane Eyre"; Warner Brothers: "In Our Time," "Destination Tokyo," "The Desert Song"; RKO: "Tender Comrade," "Higher and Higher," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (reissue), "Rookies in Burma"; M-G-M: "A Guy Named Joe," "Lost Angel," "The Cross of Lorraine"; United Artists: "Up in Arms," "Jack London"; Universal: "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," "Gung Ho," "Sing a Jingle"; Republic: "Casanova in Burlesque," "The Fighting Seabees"; Paramount: "Lady in the Dark," "No Time for Love," "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"; Columbia: "Nine Girls," "None Shall Escape"; Monogram: "Where Are Your Children," "Charlie Chan in the Secret Service."

Composite receipts for the past 11 weeks compared with the same weeks last year follow:

1944 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Dec. 31-Jan. 1..	135	$2,213,500	$16,396
Jan. 7-8.....	117	2,417,700	20,664
Jan. 14-15.....	134	2,040,700	15,229
Jan. 21-22.....	149	2,311,400	15,513
Jan. 28-29.....	147	2,365,200	16,090
Feb. 4-5	153	2,512,200	16,419
Feb. 11-12	137	2,220,900	16,211
Feb. 18-19	155	2,459,800	15,870
Feb. 25-26	161	2,760,100	17,144
March 3-4	147	2,397,100	16,307
March 10-11	147	2,463,400	16,758

1943 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 1-2	151	$2,813,506	$18,632
Jan. 8-9	154	2,424,300	15,742
Jan. 15-16	149	1,830,500	12,285
Jan. 22-23	127	1,648,600	12,981
Jan. 29-30	127	1,789,500	14.091
Feb. 5-6	126	1,743,000	13,040
Feb. 12-13	132	1,919,000	14,538
Feb. 19-20	139	1,885,900	13,568
Feb. 26-27	149	2,005,200	13,458
March 5-6.....	142	1,933,400	13,615
March 12-13 ..	151	1,944,600	12,878

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Accessory Buying Is Up 30 Percent

(*Continued from page* 1)

previously allocated to newspaper advertising, to the cost involved in announcing film programs on roadway billboards and plastering bills on the sides of barns, fences and public buildings.

Typifying the extent of the increase in exhibitor accessory buying were the results of a survey conducted by Bernard Goodman, in charge of accessories for Warner Theatres, and which showed that W. B. during a period of 26 weeks ending Feb. 26, 1944, had an increase in demands for accessories of approximately 30 per cent over the comparable previous period.

The over-all rise, it is pointed out, had been in spite of fewer releases this season.

Forty on Industry Charity Committee

(*Continued from page* 1)

Schaefer, Spyros Skouras, Martin Quigley, Schaefer, Pat Casey, James Grainger, Edmund Grainger, Senator William J. Murray, Pat Powers, George Skouras, Martin Bennett, Major Edward Bowes, William White, E. H. Seifert, William Scully, Steve Broidy, Harry Buckley, William F. Rodgers, Herman Robbins, Tom Connors, H. M. Doherty, Phil Reisman, Charles Reagan, Gus Eysell, Si Fabian, Charles L. O'Reilly, Thomas F. O'Connor, Al Hovell, John Kane.

Also: Austin Keough, Joseph McConville, Charles B. McDonald, Dennis O'Brien, John Nolan, Leon Netter, Joseph P. McLoughlin, Joseph McMahon, James Mulvey, John Murphy, William P. Murphy.

WPB Warns of Metal Shortage

(*Continued from page* 1)

from the point of view of the industry, Allen G. Smith, chief of the WPB Motion Picture Section, admitted that it was highly serious and declared that it is more necessary than ever before for exhibitors to save every possible ounce of copper drippings and strippings from carbons for salvage.

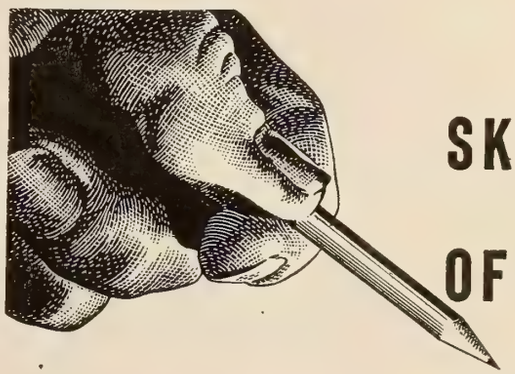
Recent letters from theatre equipment dealers to WPB officials indicate the rumors during the past few weeks of a plentitude of copper have influenced many exhibitors to relax their salvage efforts.

"The situation is more critical than ever before," Smith said, "and it is essential that there be no let-down in the salvage campaign. The industry uses large quantities of copper—110,000 pounds a year on carbons alone, with additional large amounts in wire, switchboards and apparatus, equipment and parts. Not only is the situation serious right now, but it is expected to continue so for some time," he said.

Smith urged that all exhibitors intensify their efforts to save copper and turn it in to supply dealers.

Services for Mahoney

Funeral services will be held Monday in Worcester, Mass., for William J. Mahoney, former New England exhibitor, who died yesterday at Fordham Hospital here of a heart attack. Surviving is a sister, Florence Mahoney Brady.



SKILL OF THE SPECIALIST

There isn't anything so very unusual about the way in which our organization operates. What is unusual, we think, is that Altec Service is *unbiased.* Our chief aim is to sell a service that will keep your present equipment running at high efficiency 100% of the time. Our knowledge and experience with all types of sound and projection equipment also qualifies us to render expert advice when and as new and improved sound equipment is available. An Altec Service Inspector will be glad to tell you how an Altec Service Agreement can prevent breakdown losses.

ALTEC SERVICE CORPORATION
250 WEST 57th STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

★ PROTECTING THE THEATRE OUR "FIRST LINE OF MORALE"

Another answer to the question: **"WHAT HAS UNIVERSAL GO**

THAT NO OTHER COMPANY HAS?"

This week on Broadway—

Now playing at the CAPITOL THEATRE

DONALD O'CONNOR · PEGGY RYAN · ANN BLYTH

in

"CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK"

Now playing at the CRITERION THEATRE

LORETTA YOUNG · GERALDINE FITZGERALD

in **WALTER WANGER'S production**

"LADIES COURAGEOUS"

Now playing at the R.K.O. PALACE THEATRE

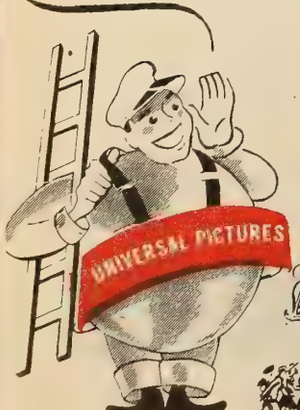
MARIA MONTEZ · JON HALL · TURHAN BEY

in

"ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES"

in TECHNICOLOR

and doing terrific business here and everywhere!





"RED CROSS DRIVE! COLLECT AT EVERY PERFORMANCE EVERY DAY, MARCH 23 THROUGH 29."

DO NOT REMOVE

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 55 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1944 TEN CENTS

WPB Releases Film Reels, Cans, Lenses

Other Items Also Eased; Studio Buying Aided

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The War Production Board at the weekend released a revision of photographic limitation order No. L-267, removing all restrictions on the production of motion picture and other mounted lenses, shutters, film reels and film cans.

The board also provided that studios can use their maintenance-operation-repair rating to obtain nearly all equipment and accessories costing $500 or less, and will no longer have to submit applications for more expensive items to Washington but may file them with their local offices which have been instructed to rate such requirements.

But the production of eight mm

(*Continued on page 7*)

$955,000 Columbia Net for Six Months

Columbia Pictures made a net profit of $955,000 for the 25 weeks ending Dec. 25, 1943, according to a comparative earnings statement released here at the weekend. This compares with a $750,000 net for the same period in 1942, a gain of $205,000.

The increase in operating profit, prior to provision for taxes, was $715,000—the difference between $3,065,000 in the last half of 1943 and $2,350,000 in the last half of 1942.

During the 26-weeks ending last Dec. 25, Columbia set aside $2,110,000 for Federal taxes, compared with $1,600,000 for the same period last year.

Film Classics to Release 'Newsreel'

A new series of 'news-magazine' subjects will be released weekly, internationally, by Film Classics. The series will feature spot interviews with authors, commentators and correspondents, the first subject including Arthur Hale, Quincey Howe, John Roy Carlson, Fulton Lewis, Jr., Raymond Clapper, Leland Stowe, Eve Curie and John Mason Brown; it will be released April 1.

The 52 will be produced by Stuart Martin of the Embassy Newsreel and T. Dennie Boardman of Telenews Theatres here and will comprise eight "Books in the War," eight "Look Magazine" subjects, and 36 "News Analysts."

Industry Is Going Into R. C. Drive With 14,560 Pledges

"With 14,560 theatres pledged to the 1944 Red Cross drive, we will launch this important home front effort with the greatest mobilization of theatres in the history of the industry," Joseph Bernhard, Warner executive and industry drive chairman reported over the weekend.



Joseph Bernhard

"In order not to dissipate this demonstration I appeal to everyone concerned in this achievement to carry through to an all-time record for collections.

"This requires that all drive chairmen, all exhibitors and the local National Screen offices distributing the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Producers and 'IA' Agree on 15 Points

The basis for agreement on 15 out of 40 proposals made by the IATSE and studio craft locals for a new contract, has been reached, Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, revealed here at the weekend.

However, Casey again emphasized

(*Continued on page 7*)

Purchasing Agents Organize for R.C.

Sam Rosen of Fabian Theatres is chairman of a new committee of circuit and home office purchasing agents as part of the industry's corporate gifts committee for the industry's 1944 Red Cross campaign.

Herman Robbins, corporate gifts chairman, made the appointments at the weekend, as follows: Paul Sherman, Al Naroff, Brandt Theatres; M. J. Fessler, Warner Theatres; Larry Morris, B. F. Moss; Frank Fowler, Wilmer & Vincent; Fred Lakeman, RKO; Irwin Breuer, Rugoff & Becker; Max Seligman, Columbia; Max Wolf, Loew's, and P. F. Harling of Fabian as secretary.

WAC Executives to Elect Here Friday

Annual meeting of the executive committee of the War Activities Committee theatres' division, postponed for some weeks due to travel difficulties, will be held here Friday, March 24, at WAC headquarters. Election of officers and a general business meeting are on the agenda.

Among those expected to attend are Ed Kuykendall, Joseph Bernhard, Harry Brandt, Dan Michalove, Robert O'Donnell, E. V. Richards, Robert Wilby and Nathan Yamins.

WPB to Urge WMC to Halt 'Raid' on Industry

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Officials of the War Production Board and War and Navy Departments have held a series of conferences to discuss the effects of the new stiffened draft policy upon manufacturers of raw stock and producers of war films, preparatory to appealing to the War Manpower Commission to head off any "raid" on those branches of the industry which might interfere with the war effort.

Present plans, which WPB Chairman Donald M. Nelson warned the steel industry last week may cut into their labor forces to such an extent as to curtail production, are seen by the military and production agencies

(*Continued on page 3*)

Paramount Partners Will Meet on Coast

A meeting of the general committee of Paramount's theatre partners and home office theatre officials has been scheduled for the week of March 27 in Hollywood. General discussions of current operating problems and examination of new product and production plans will occupy the meeting.

Expected to attend the session are: Leonard Goldenson, Paramount vice-president and theatre head; Leon Netter and Sam Dembow, Jr., home office theatre executives; John Balaban, R. J. O'Donnell, E. V. Richards, Sam Pinanski, R. B. Wilby, and others.

MPTOA Will Set Decree Stand Today

Exhibitors' Committee to See Clark Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, March 19. — Recommendations for consent decree provisions for full season or large block selling with adequate cancellation, local mediation of trade disputes and more liberal arbitration rules are expected to be highlights of the decree report which will be compiled at a meeting of the MPTOA executive committee in the Willard Hotel here tomorrow.

The committee, headed by MPTOA president, Ed Kuykendall, is scheduled to present the report to Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark on Tuesday.

The report will be based on recommendations made by regional affiliates of MPTOA, compiled at membership

(*Continued on page 7*)

St. Louis Owners Charge 'Pressure'

ST. LOUIS, March 19.—The same "pressure" methods used by John P. Nick, former business agent of the St. Louis Theatrical Brotherhood, now serving a five-year Federal prison sentence, are being continued by his successor, James P. Arthur, president of Fanchon & Marco, charged in testifying at the Regional War Labor Board hearing on the demand of the union for a 15 per cent wage increase and other concessions.

Arthur testified that Elmer Moran, Nick's successor, has continued to make the "same relentless, unreasonable demands" of theatres here that were made by Nick, who was convicted of violating the Federal anti-racketeering law. Arthur cited in-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Paramount, Crosby In New 10-Year Pact

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—Actual signing of a new ten-year Paramount contract for Bing Crosby only awaits approval by the Wage Stabilization Board, it was learned here today.

The contract calls for a total of 23 pictures with permission given Crosby to do one annually with an outside company.

Personal Mention

SAM KATZ, M-G-M vice-president and studio executive, is expected from the Coast today.

•

JACK GOETZ, vice-president of DuArt Film Laboratories, left over the weekend for a two week visit to Hollywood.

•

CARL LESERMAN, United Artists general manager, who was scheduled to leave last Friday for the Coast, has deferred his trip until Thursday.

•

HARRY M. KALMINE, Warner Theatres assistant general manager, will return today from an up-state trip.

•

MISS MAUDE TINTLE of 20th Century-Fox's home office photostat department, was married yesterday to HERBERT KRAMER.

•

GEORGE MCCALL, Howard Hughes' personal representative, arrived in New York. He is at the Hotel Gotham.

•

WALTER GOULD, United Artists foreign manager, spent the weekend at his home in Chestertown, Md.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, is due in New York from Hollywood today.

•

HANS DREIER, Paramount studio art department head, has left Hollywood for New York.

•

LEON D. NETTER, Paramount theatre department executive, returned Friday from a Southern trip.

Will Drop Clearance For 'Memphis Belle'

In order to quicken exhibition of "The Memphis Belle," the U. S. Eighth Air Force's four-reel combat report, Paramount will release the film to subsequent theatres immediately following the prior runs, which will start April 14. There will be no clearance between showings; all competitive situations will play the picture day-and-date.

Paramount has prepared 500 Technicolor prints of the special, distributing it on a non-profit basis for the Office of War Information, through the War Activities Committee.

'Happy Breed' Shown

LONDON, March 19.—A midnight showing of Noel Coward's "This Happy Breed" to an audience of nine for the convenience of Spyros Skouras, 20th-Fox president, was given here last night.

Kane UA Office Manager

ST. LOUIS, March 19.—John Kane, formerly a United Artists salesman in this territory, has become the company's office manager, succeeding Ray Curran, who resigned to operate a theatre.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

"AT a time when it should be exceedingly eloquent, the (legitimate) theatre continues to stutter. Whether (stage) playwrights have been intent on insignificant themes or merely entertaining nonsense, they have missed the boat on far too many occasions this season.

"The screen is far ahead of its parent form in considering the actualities or dreams which so many people wish to experience in artistic reconstruction during a time of crisis. The theatre . . . cannot match the striking savagery of such a film as 'The Purple Heart.' . . . It is certain to make you fighting mad, where recent plays could have done little more than make you yawn."

And whom do you think wrote that? A 20th Century-Fox press agent? Nope. A trade paper editor with a chip on his shoulder? Nope. Who, then?

That, ladies and gentlemen, comes from one Howard Barnes, the *N. Y. Herald-Tribune's* drama critic, who, more often than not, writes as though he honestly believed all penitentiaries should be closed and felons punished by sentencing them to attend motion pictures.

• •

Now, take a look over in this cage:

"It is an unhappy thing for us who love the (legitimate) theatre to contemplate, but the truth is that the movies are getting a terrific jump on the stage. Time after time you go to the movie theatre and you come away with a deeper inner satisfaction than that which you have got from buying a ticket to 'Jackpot' or 'Decision' or some other show on Broadway.

"Hollywood is turning out movie dramas time after time which are superior to most of the Broadway offerings in emotional purge and in sheer intellectual quality, besides being technically superior to Broadway in the matter of presentation. 'Lady in the Dark' and 'The Watch on the Rhine', for instance, are much better in the movies than they were on the stage. Movie producers seem largely to have discarded the notion that their audiences are moronic, but many Broadway producers seem to select plays on that principle."

And who said that? The industry Public Information Committee? Nope. The Hays annual report? Nope.

That, gentle reader, is from the typewriter of Burton Rascoe, drama critic of the *N. Y. World-Telegram*, who, up to the time we read the above, had us believing that he had never seen a motion picture.

Hollywood, once more we salute you. When you succeed in wringing kind words for films out of Barnes's and Rascoes, brother, you're good! And as for Barnes and Rascoe, isn't it a little surprising to think that, after all the time they've spent in the theatre, they are only now beginning to learn what you and I have known for so long?

• •

MOTION PICTURE DAILY in the past few days received many favorable comments on its handling in last Thursday's issue of the Securities & Exchange Commission's report on the salaries and other compensation paid to leading executives of Loew's, Inc. Convinced that in these days of high Federal taxes on income, it is most unfair to report big individual incomes in a way which suggests to the unthinking that the recipients retain all or most of the incomes publicized, MOTION PICTURE DAILY attempted to indicate in the case of the Loew's executives what each would have left after deducting taxes.

Of the many commendations received on this handling of the SEC reports, we noted, there was none from the industry Public Information Committee, which from time to time purports to exhibit a desire to spare the industry the ill effects of injurious dollar publicity. In the opinion of many responsible industry officials, an opinion which we, incidentally, share, there is no form of dollar publicity which can do so much damage to the industry's public relations as the SEC's salary reports which give the impression that the individuals concerned have the benefits of all or most of the compensation credited to them. Such, of course, is not the case at all. Not while Federal surtax is at 88 per cent of $200,000 of individual income.

We think there is in this something distinctly worth the consideration of the Eastern Public Information Committee the next time it ponders the problem of dollar publicity.

Coming Events

March 21—New York theatre owners' dinner for RKO's Robert S. Wolff at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York.
March 22—MPPDA meeting, New York.
March 23-29—Motion picture theatres' Red Cross campaign.
March 24—Annual meeting, executive committee, WAC theatre division, New York.
April 3—Universal board meeting and election of officers, New York.
April 5—Atlas Corp. annual stockholders' meeting, Wilmington, Del.
May 9-10—Annual meeting of the Ohio ITO, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

Exhibitors Aim to Reduce Doubles

Exhibitors on the West Coast are attempting the gradual elimination of double bills through the increased use of short subjects, Oscar Morgan, Paramount short subjects sales manager, said Friday, following a month's tour during which he talked with some 50 circuit heads.

"I am not kidding myself that exhibitors on the West Coast or anywhere else are just going to toss double bills out overnight," Morgan said, "but they are definitely endeavoring to build up a number of single bill changes on which they can put short subjects.

Morgan said it was decided in conferences with Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount studio head, to allocate more important personalities, higher budgets and more Technicolor to Paramount's shorts on next season's program.

'Tunisian Victory' Shown in London

LONDON, March 19.—"Tunisian Victory," joint presentation of the U. S. Office of War Information and the British Ministry of Information, had a special premiere here last night at the Odeon Theatre before a distinguished military and diplomatic audience.

Among those present were Gen. Eisenhower, U. S. Ambassador Winant, Air Marshal Tedder, Eisenhower's deputy, and the invasion general staff, cabinet ministers and the Russian and Chinese Ambassadors. Industry representatives included J. Arthur Rank and Spyros Skouras.

$913,742 in 'Dimes' From Para. Partners

Theatre partners and associates with whom Paramount is affiliated collected from their audiences an aggregate of $913,742 in the recent "March of Dimes" drive.

The result was computed in Paramount's home office.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue. Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Brown Describes 32 Product Refusals

NEW HAVEN, March 19.—Corp. William Brown, formerly assistant to Edward J. Peskay, when the latter was manager of the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, Conn., completed his direct testimony in the trial of the Prefect anti-trust suit against the majors here at the weekend by alleging 32 refusals of product by distributors for the Pickwick between 1935 and 1938. He told of annual conversations over the four-year period with a representative of each of the eight distributors and said they all refused Greenwich showings 14 days after Stamford regardless of nearby Port Chester.

In the cross-examination that followed, Brown denied that certain letters allegedly written to the distributors during the period had been prepared after consulting counsel. Confronted with a letter on behalf of his employers alleged to have been written by attorney Norman Nicholson in January of 1938, Brown said he could not identify it. The defense apparently sought to establish by this line of questioning that the theatre was consciously preparing grounds for a suit.

The trial has adjourned until Tuesday, when Brown's cross-examination will continue.

Skouras Sees Good Business in Britain

The business outlook for 20th-Fox in Great Britain was characterized in London at the weekend by company president Spyros Skouras as "extremely optimistic," cables received here by Murray Silverstone, the company's foreign distribution vice-president, disclosed.

Speaking at a special 20th-Fox meeting in the English capital, Skouras analyzed the company's plans, particularly as they concern world markets now and in the post-war. He paid tribute to the British industry and to F. L. Harley, 20th-Fox managing director for Great Britain. Product line-up and advertising programs were also covered.

Also on the agenda was a discussion of Movietone news and March of Time as program adjuncts. "The Song of Bernadette" and "The Sullivans" were screened for the delegates, and the meetings wound up with a reception at Claridge's Hotel.

Hochstein Trial for Perjury Postponed

Trial of Harry Hochstein, former Chicago morals inspector, accused of perjury in the IATSE fraud case, originally postponed to last Friday, from Feb. 1, by Judge Vincent L. Leibell in Federal Court here, has been further postponed until after the forthcoming mail-fraud of Capone gang members. No date for the latter has been set.

Sentencing of Isadore Zevin, former secretary to George Browne, convicted IATSE ex-president, who pleaded guilty to perjury in the Government's probe of $1,000,000 collected from "IA" members, is also postponed. It was scheduled to start today.

Both Hochstein and Zevin are expected to be witnesses in the mail-fraud case.

Review

"It Happened Tomorrow"

(Pressburger-United Artists)

SEVERAL years ago Rene Clair played hi-jinks with "a ghost of the past who turned up in the present." He has now turned those special talents to "tomorrow's newspaper that turns up today." The result is "It Happened Tomorrow," a delightful and at times hilarious little fantasy. Produced by Arnold Pressburger for United Artists release, it makes no pretense in the direction of reality. Its sole purpose is entertainment and it succeeds admirably in this respect. In view of the reception accorded its predecessor "Ghost Goes West," customers should take this spoofing in the same vein; the film has what it takes to command top grosses.

The capable performances of Dick Powell, Linda Darnell and Jack Oakie lend added sparkle to the screenplay and adaptation which Dudley Nichols and Clair have derived from ideas of Lord Dunsany, Hugh Wedlock, Howard Snyder and Lewis R. Foster. Clair's direction is keyed to the broad farce of the script and his mastery in setting the mood of the story permits the production to emerge as neat satire.

The story opens with Powell and Miss Darnell celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. For 50 years, Miss Darnell has prevented Powell from disclosing the events of the hectic three days he spent when a "miracle" dropped tomorrow's newspaper into his hands a day in advance. Here the story flashes back 50 years. Miss Darnell and Oakie, her uncle, had one of those "phony" mind-reading acts and Powell was an enterprising newspaper obituary writer who had just been promoted to full-fledged reporter. In the series of hilarious situations that followed Powell's acquisition of tomorrow's news the day before it happened, he became involved in robberies, fake suicides, scored a cleanup at the race track, and almost met his own end, scoring several news scoops, before he realized that it was better not to be in a position to be in on things before they happened.

The supporting cast includes Edgar Kennedy, Sig Ruman, Edward Brophy, John Philliber, Paul Guilfoyle, Eddie Acuff and others. Pressburger has surrounded all with a handsome production and Arnold Stolz provided a pleasant musical background. Archie Stout was in charge of protography.

Running time, 84 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

*"G" denotes general classification.

Para., SOPEG Tilt Set for Arbitration

Aaron Horvits, arbitration lawyer, has been designated as the third arbitrator in the job classification dispute between the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO, and Paramount, involving some 400 home office "white-collarites."

SOPEG had previously designated Richard Seller of the New York Newspaper Guild as its arbitrator, while Paramount selected Albert G. Whaley. No date has yet been set for the arbitration proceedings, which will be held under the auspices of the American Arbitration Association.

800 at Bob Wolff Dinner Tomorrow

Over 800 exhibitors, circuit executives and distribution officials are expected to honor Robert S. Wolff, RKO Radio's New York exchange manager, at a dinner tomorrow evening at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Louis Nizer, Don Jacocks, Harry Brandt, Si Fabian, Ned Depinet and Phil Reisman will speak. Wolff will depart soon for England to become managing director for RKO of Great Britain. Sam Rinzler will be toastmaster.

Plunkett to Release 'Italy'

Joseph Plunkett will release on March 27 "What Price Italy?" produced by Amco Films.

SAG Charges SPU With Dual Unionism

LOS ANGELES, March 19.—Basing its claim on testimony by Screen Players Union leaders in a NLRB hearing on the SPU petition for a collective bargaining election among extras, the Screen Actors Guild charges the SPU with "seeking to set up a rival union for all screen actors."

In a bulletin to the membership, SAG warns that SPU is attempting to invade the jurisdiction of SAG in all fields of screen acting. Harry Mayor, chairman of the SPU committee, admitted on the stand that SPU seeks to represent and bargain collectively for every type of acting. Mike Jeffers, another SPU witness, stated: "I demand elimination of SAG, a corporation posing as a union, from the field of actors and extra players."

Sack Gets RKO Shorts

DALLAS, March 19.—Sack Amusement Enterprises here has closed a national distribution deal with RKO-Radio for the reissue of four RKO colored-cast musical two-reelers featuring the Hall Johnson choir, Hattie McDaniel, Willie Best, Clarence Muse and others. Deal covers both 35mm and 16mm rights and new prints and accessories including trailers, will be available, according to Alfred N. Sack who negotiated the deal with H. J. Michalson, RKO short subjects manager.

WPB to Urge WMC To Prevent 'Raid' On Film Industry

(*Continued from page* 1)

as threatening to create serious bottlenecks by depleting skilled forces in basic operations.

So far as the raw stock manufacturers and film producers are concerned, it was said, literal enforcement of the order to end exemptions for most skilled workers up to the age of 26 might have a devastating effect unless handled carefully.

To Urge Gradual Draft

Outcome of the inter-agency conferences now going on is expected to be an appeal to WMC to take men out of the film industry according to replacement schedules rather than in one concentrated drive over the next two or three months. This would enable manufacturers and studios to rebuild their depleted forces in part and revamp operations so as to keep production at or near its present level. While an effort will be made to attract older men to essential jobs, some of the younger ones must be retained, it was said.

Officials concerned with the situation pointed out that lighting and sound experts, emulsion coaters and similar skilled men cannot be trained over a period of a few weeks. The men who will be withdrawn under the new draft policy are those who were being trained to replace older men as they passed out of the picture, making the matter one of importance for the future as well as immediately.

Would Avert Bottlenecks

The situation is serious, it was explained, because if a company has, say, ten skilled men engaged in the initial operation and three of them are taken out without replacement, operations all along the line may be slowed down. To avert these bottlenecks, WMC will be asked to employ a replacement schedule under which men will be taken gradually.

The appeal will be based upon the importance of raw stock and motion pictures to the war effort and the limited number of producing concerns, which will make it impossible to shift production from plant to plant. That this is recognized in military circles is evidenced by the interest taken in the matter by the Army and Navy, both of which, it is said, are deeply concerned over the situation.

Warner Executives Return From Coast

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—Warner home office executives Ben Kalmenson, Mort Blumenstock and Samuel Schneider left here yesterday for New York after concluding a week of studio conferences with Harry M. and Jack L. Warner and Charles Einfeld. Blumenstock and Schneider are returning directly to New York, while Kalmenson plans to make some stopovers en route.

Norman H. Moray is remaining for additional conferences with Jack Warner and Gordon Hollingshead.

Two MGM Managers Set

J. F. Willingham and Louis C. Ingram, acting branch managers for M-G-M at St. Louis and Memphis, respectively, have been given the posts permanently, it has been announced.

PUT YOUR THEATRE



(Above) Somewhere in England—An American Red Cross Clubmobile ready to leave for a tour of the camps where doughnuts and coffee will be distributed. Doughnuts machine is part of the equipment. Two Red Cross girls receive a soldier's farewell.



Red Cross "CLUBMOBILES" on the Fighting Fronts

"Clubmobiles" are one more of the vital services provided by the Red Cross for our fighting men. These motorized units, staffed by Red Cross personnel, are close to the front lines in all the combat areas that 85 such units can cover. To thwart the icy grip of Winter weather they bring hot coffee, in the steaming tropics cold drinks for parched throats. Cigarettes. They make doughnuts by the thousands. And what is even more God-sent—a cheery smile and a word of good fellowship from these Red Cross workers who live again the heritage of heroism and mercy of their glorious organization. Think what this means to battle-weary, hungry, thirsty, and frequently wounded fighting men.

There are but 85 of these Clubmobile units—hundreds are needed. That's another reason why this year's RED CROSS WAR FUND must receive the utmost in effort and results from every individual and theatre in the industry.

INTO THE FIGHT!

Collect every performance!
Collect every day!

WAR FUND

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY'S RED CROSS WEEK MARCH 23-29





(Above) Somewhere in Italy—during a lull in the battle two soldiers of the Fifth Army atop their M-10 tank destroyer really enjoy the Clubmobile doughnuts and coffee served by Red Cross girl, Mrs. William Stevenson of New York City. The soldiers are Pvt. Saul A. Cohan of Dorchester, Mass., and Pvt. Jimmy Klenk of Reading, Pa.

(Right) Somewhere—waiting for the bombers to return at an American flying field. Not much urging needed when this Red Cross Clubmobile girl suggests "seconds."

This advertisement contributed by METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

'Miracle' Awes in Providence Opening

PROVIDENCE, March 19.—"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" grossed a splendid $15,000 on its first week at the Strand Theatre. "Tender Comrade" at the RKO-Albee showed a strong $11,500 in its second week and may be held over.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 16:

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $12,800).

"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $10,500).

"Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
"The Ghost That Walks Alone" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $17,700).

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Hat Check Honey" (Univ.)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $2,100).

"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
"Hi, Good Lookin'" (Univ.)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Majestic. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $4,000).

"Texas Masquerade" (U.A.)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: Hermine's Midgets, Tom O'Neal, Patricia Adair, Charles Willis, The Catrons, Roberge. Gross: $7,200. (Average: $6,500).

"Voodoo Man" (Mono.)
METROPOLTAN—(3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Mary Beth Hughes, Steve Evans, Jane Dawn, Acorn & Shirley, Allen & Kent, Dodson's Monkeys. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $7,900).

'Gangway', Dorsey Top House Record

CLEVELAND, March 19. — Tommy Dorsey, Gene Krupa and Bob Allen on the Palace stage bid fair to break the house record, coupled with "Gangway for Tomorrow," with all signs pointing to a $45,000 week. Second week of "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" opened very big at Loew's Stillman with $12,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 15:

"Frisco Kid" (WB)
ALLEN — (3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,500).

"Life Boat" (20th-Fox)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $22,100).

"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3d week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $3,200).

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,000).

"Gangway for Tomorrow" (RKO)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (45c-55c-75c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Tommy Dorsey orchestra, Gene Krupa, Bob Allen. Gross: $45,000. (Average: $25,400).

"Rationing" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $19,000).

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $16,000).

Lee, Schaefer Move

NEW HAVEN, March 19. — Joseph Lee, recently substituting for Ben Simon in the 20th-Fox office here, has been dispatched to Buffalo to handle a special assignment there. Murray Schaefer, who temporarily replaced salesman Earl Wright, is now at the Boston 20th-Fox exchange.

Knox Invites Cooper

WASHINGTON, March 19. — Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox has wired Gary Cooper in Hollywood, personally inviting him to attend the Red-Cross-benefit preview of "The Story of Dr. Wassell" here on April 1.

Reviews

"Buffalo Bill"

(20th Century-Fox)

TWENTIETH-Century-Fox presents herewith a legend, beloved by generations of American youth, coloring and adding to the established facts, and injecting new angles in the life of William F. Cody—"Buffalo Bill." The result is an exciting film in the well-known style of Harry A. Sherman, who produced.

William A. Wellman's direction is in keeping with the best in lavish Westerns. The captivating beauty of the vast expanse of prairie country to which Technicolor does real justice, lends an element of awe. Joel McCrea's portrayal of Buffalo Bill is good and Maureen O'Hara handles the role of the Eastern girl who married the great scout, with finesse. But Thomas Mitchell, in a grand characterization of the newspaperman who later exploited Cody in dime novels, steals the acting honors.

The story begins when Bill Cody, buffalo hunter, meets and marries Miss O'Hara. She adapts herself to his primitive life, making a home for him and bearing him a son. Indian uprisings, stemming from railroad companies' encroachments, call the scout to help the Army quiet Cheyenne and Sioux warriors. His wife, unsympathetic to the Indian problem, returns to Boston with their son, who dies without seeing his father again. Hero Cody is ordered to Washington to be decorated, but meanwhile politicians frame him as a fraud. Working in a shooting gallery, he conceives the idea for the "Wild West Show," which later became world-famous, but not before he is reconciled with his wife.

Screenplay, based on Frank Winch's story, was by Aeneas MacKenzie, Clements Ripley and Cecile Kramer. Leon Shamroy was in charge of photography. Music score, by David Buttolph, was directed by Emil Newman.

Running time, 90 mins. "G."* Released in the April block.

HELEN MCNAMARA

"My Best Gal"

(Republic)

THE somewhat familiar story of the young hopeful who, in scripters' fancy, dreams of his name in marquee lights, forms the nucleus of Republic's new musical, "My Best Gal." Producer Harry Grey has assembled a capable cast, headed by Jane Withers and Jimmy Lydon, with a cross-section of talented Hollywood youth to please both young and old.

Miss Withers, as the child of a vaudeville family, refuses to go into show business despite the pleas of her grandfather, Frank Craven, with whom she lives. She meets and falls in love with Lydon, a struggling playwright trying to sell a show, and a cast of youngsters for whom he wrote it. Jane succeeds in getting Lydon's script to a producer, but the latter won't take Lydon's protegees with the play. The boy sells the play alone when Craven suffers a heart attack and needs money for treatment. Angry with Lydon for selling them out, the boys and girls, upon learning he did it for Craven, storm the producer's office and convince him they should do the show. Miss Withers, unable to withstand the "allure" of bright lights, goes into the play to make a career of the stage—and Lydon.

Anthony Mann directed from a screenplay by Oliver Cooper and Earl Felton, taken from Richard Brooks' original story. Morton Scott was musical director and Dave Gould directed dances.

Running time, 67 mins. "G."* Release date, March 28.

HELEN MCNAMARA

"G" denotes general classification.

RCA Promotes Biben

PHILADELPHIA, March 19. — B. F. Biben, in charge of service sales for RCA Service Co., Inc., in this city, has been placed in charge of service sales for the company's entire Philadelphia district. B. D. Streeter, formerly of the sales department of RCA Victor in Camden, has been transferred to the Philadelphia staff.

KAO Preferred Dividend

Regular quarterly dividend of $1.75 per share on the seven percent cumulative convertible preferred stock was declared at a meeting here at the weekend by the board of directors of Keith-Albee-Orpheum. The dividend is payable out of operating surplus on April 1 to holders of record on March 27.

'Main Street' Tonight

MERIDEN, Conn., March 19.—The show scheduled for the Palace Theatre here tomorrow night in connection with M-G-M's world premiere of "Main Street Today," a two-reeler, will highlight Jimmy Durante, Luise Rainer, Lucy Monroe and Capt. Glenn Miller and his band. Paul V. McNutt, WMC chairman, who will speak over the NBC network from the Palace stage, will head a contingent to Meriden, which will include Brig.-Gen. William Rose, U. S. Senator John A. Danaher, Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin and regional WMC officials.

'U' to Screen 'Eagle'

Universal will screen "Eagle vs. Dragon" today at 4:30 P.M. at the Museum of Modern Art here. A reception will follow.

'Lady' Opens New House with $24,000

MINNEAPOLIS, March 19..—"Lady in the Dark," opening the Radio City theatre, appeared headed for a heavy $24,000, while "The Lodger," coupled with a stage show at the Orpheum, was due for $20,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 18:

"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
ORPHEUM—(2,800) (45c-60c) 7 days. On stage: Tommy Tucker's orchestra, Virginia Weidler, Cy Reeves, The Kemmys. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $13,900).

"Desert Song" (WB)
STATE—(2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $12,400).

"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
RADIO CITY—(4,000) (40c-55c) 8½ days. Gross: $24,000. (First week, no average available).

"Henry VIII" (UA)
WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $2,400).

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,400).

"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
LYRIC—(1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5.000. (Average: $5,600).

"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
GOPHER—(998) (35c). Gross: $3,200. (Average: $3,700).

"Voodoo Man" (Mono.) 4 days
"My Darling Clementine" (Rep.) 4 days
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with mid-week change. Gross: $2,250. (Average: $2,600).

'Bernadette' Paces Buffalo in 2nd Week

BUFFALO, March 19.—"The Song of Bernadette," a holdover at advanced prices at the Great Lakes, is out in front this week with a gross of $21,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 18:

"The Bridge of San Luis Rey (UA)
"After Midnight with Boston Blackie" (Col.)
BUFFALO — (3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,700. (Average: $17,400).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
GREAT LAKES — (3,000) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $16,600).

"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $9,700).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Melody Parade" (Mono.)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65) 7 days, 2nd week, for "Tender Comrade." Gross: $13,500. (Average: $12,200).

"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.)
"Cowboy Canteen" (Col.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, for "His Butler's Sister." (Univ.) Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,400).

Cooper, Miner Will Address SMPE Here

Whether television broadcasts should be made from "live" action or from a film previously photographed and edited will be discussed by Willis Cooper of NBC, who will talk on "Television Production as Viewed by a Motion Picture Producer," and Worthington C. Miner, who will speak on "Television Production as Viewed by a Radio Broadcaster," at a meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Atlantic Coast section, on March 22 at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Cooper, who is now in television production, was formerly a film director on the Coast. Miner is engaged in television production at CBS's Grand Central television studio here.

RCA Annual Meet May 2

The annual meeting of RCA stockholders of record on March 17, will be held here on May 2, according to Secretary Lewis MacConnach. Four directors will be elected.

St. Louis Owners Charge 'Pressure'

(Continued from page 1)

stances in which the union has forced neighborhood theatres to hire stagehands where there was no need for their services. The union, he said, compelled the Shubert Theatre, operated by Fanchon & Marco, to employ five stagehands when one was ample.

The hearing was opened to the public and press Wednesday after the theatre owners had wired a protest against closed sessions to the U. S. Attorney General's office in Washington. Ross Bristol, chairman and the public representative on the board, however, denied that the opening of the meeting to the public was influenced by the protest.

Testimony in the hearing thus far has been devoted to an attempt by the union to show that the stagehands perform valuable services as repair, maintenance and handy-men, and testimony on behalf of the theatres to prove that the stagehands are unnecessary and in many instances unskilled.

Wehrenberg Testifies

Fred Wehrenberg, operator of a circuit of theatres in Missouri and Illinois and a district president of the MPTOA, followed Arthur on the witness stand. He told the board that he has been forced to hire stagehands, but that their services are "100 per cent in excess of the need." Other theatre operators who testified included Carl P. Johnson, manager of the Shaw Theatre, and Mrs. Ellen Crane, manager of the Maffitt Theatre.

Union members here are now paid $75 a week. In addition to the 15 per cent raise, they are asking for a two-week vacation with pay and an agreement to keep the same number of men on the payroll. The exhibitors have countered with a request for a rearrangement of the hours of service and for permission to hire only as many stagehands as are needed.

Industry Red Cross Pledges at 14,560

(Continued from page 1)

drive trailers recheck for the opening gun Thursday morning when most theatres will start their collections," Bernhard continued.

"With mail and express delays inevitable, every exhibitor should check his booth on receipt of the trailer, chairmen should check their list of pledged theatres with National Screen exchanges, so that if there are any shortages or miss-outs, we may still have a day or two to replace the shortage," Bernhard advised.

"The request to collect at every performance, which has become the campaign slogan, is urged upon each participating theatre so that we can turn over to the Red Cross every dollar a generous public is willing to contribute," he concluded.

Two Theatre Fires

At Madisonville, Tenn., the Hollywood Theatre was badly damaged by fire during a matinee performance. An explosion in the projection booth burned Leon Wayman, projectionist, before he was rescued by manager S. G. Brown.

The Mountain Theatre, Clintwood, Va., was destroyed by fire.

MPTOA Will Set Report On Consent Decree Today

(Continued from page 1)

meetings during the past two months at which the proposals of the five consenting companies for an amended consent decree were appraised. It is known that many of the MPTOA regional affiliates have expressed opposition to any new decree. Some have urged that the Government proceed with prosecution of the New York anti-trust suit or a new action, while others have urged that an entirely new approach to a solution of trade problems be attempted.

However, the majority view is expected to assume that a new decree will be entered and, accordingly, MPTOA's executive committee is expected to recommend that it contain, among other things, the proposals described. In addition, its report to Clark is expected to ask for arbitration panels of men with experience in the industry, and for a simplified standard exhibition contract.

A number of MPTOA units, also, have registered objections to the "lockout" and "showcase" provisions of the distributors' proposals covering affiliated circuit expansion; have asked for the elimination of trade showings and for a three instead of a 10-year decree.

Members of the executive committee, most of whom will attend the meeting, are: Kuykendall, Morris Loewenstein, Fred Wehrenberg, R. R. Biechele, H. V. Harvey, O. C. Lam, Arthur H. Lockwood, Lewen Pizor and L. E. Thompson.

MPTOA is understood to be the last of the associations with which Clark will confer prior to developing counter-proposals which are to be laid before the distributors late this month or early in April in what may be the final effort to work out an acceptable decree.

It has been indicated by Clark in the past that if this effort fails the Government will move to revive the New York suit, which was dropped when the original decree was entered in November, 1940. However, it was said, there has been no indication that the distributors have set any fixed limit of concessions beyond which they will not go in the effort to settle the issue out of court, and it is possible that the new negotiations between the Department and the companies may run over a considerable period.

WPB Frees Reels, Cans and Lenses

(Continued from page 1)

cameras and projectors and parts has been prohibited entirely.

Heretofore, the production of mounted lenses, shutters, etc., has been subject to the requirement that manufacturers may not put into process in any quarter for other than preferred orders more than 12 per cent of the average weight of critical materials put into process by them in 1941. The only restriction hereafter will be that manufacturers must report quarterly on their proposed production and delivery for other than preferred orders.

The relaxation of restrictions on the specified accessories was the only expansion of production possible at this time because of the serious shortage of copper, WPB officials said. However, they added, supplies will be adequate for such increase on output of accessories as may be expected and for quota production of other products.

Benjamin Cohen Services in Detroit

DETROIT, March 19. — Benjamin Cohen, Detroit exhibitor, was buried here at Cloverhill Park Cemetery on Friday. He died at St. Francis Hospital, Miami Beach, following a stroke.

In addition to operating six theatres here in partnership with his brother, Lou Cohen, who survives him, Cohen was a former director of Cooperative Theatres of Michigan and Allied Theatres of Michigan.

Producers and 'IA' Agree on 15 Points

(Continued from page 1)

that no proposals will be definitely agreed upon by the producers until all proposals for a new contract to replace the agreements which expired on Jan. 1 are agreed upon. He pointed out that every local has different problems which makes general agreement on individual proposals difficult.

The producers' representatives and the IATSE group will resume meetings here today and expect to get down to discussion of the proposals of individual studio craft locals after confining their discussion to the 26 general IATSE proposals.

O'Brien and O'Connor Named Best of Irish

LOS ANGELES, March 19. — Pat O'Brien and Una O'Connor have been chosen as the most outstanding Irish actor and actress of the year by the Catholic Film and Radio Guild. They were awarded statuettes of St. Patrick and St. Bridget in the St. Patrick's Day ceremonies held in Pershing Square here at the weekend.

Kelly Rites

LOS ANGELES, March 19.—Funeral services for John E. (Jack) Kelly, one time assistant to the late Thomas Ince, were held here yesterday. Interment was in Holy Cross cemetery. Kelly, who died Thursday, is survived by his widow, mother and two brothers.

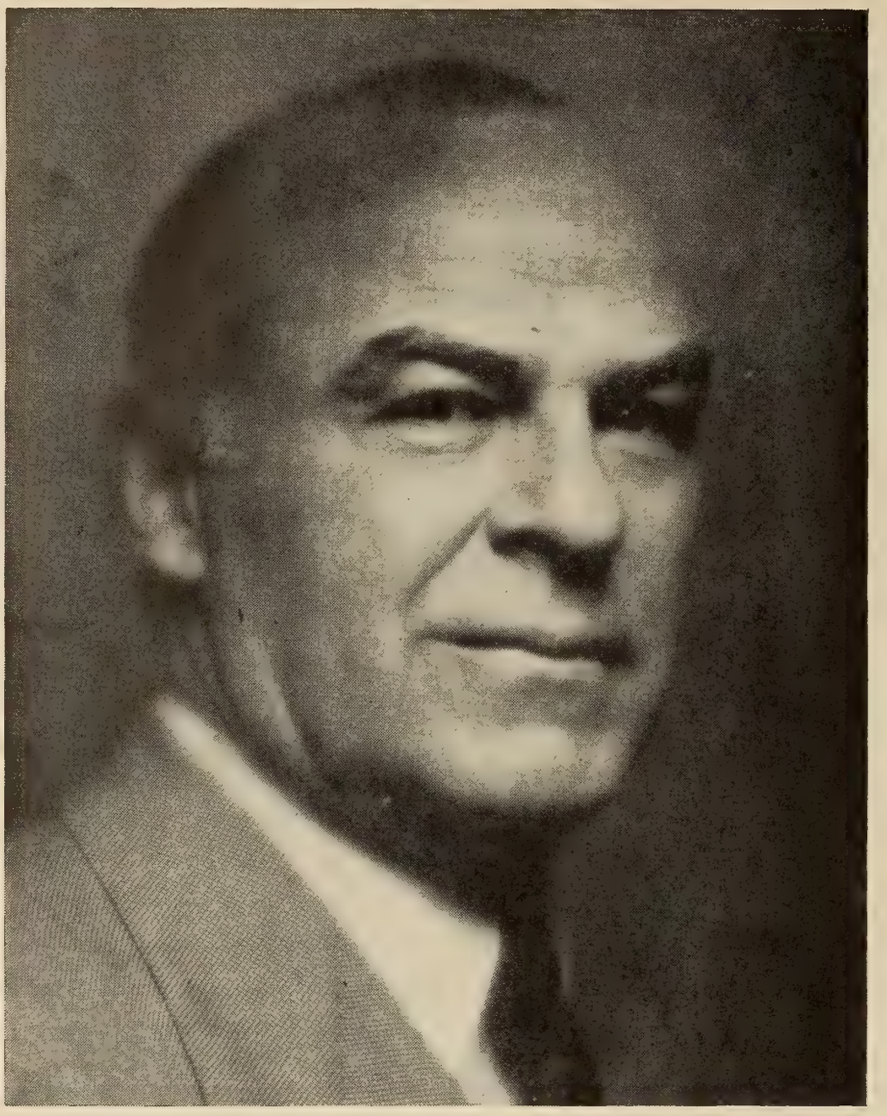
$80,000 for 'Johnny'

"Johnny Come Lately," a William Cagney production released through United Artists, and distributed in Great Britain as "Johnny Vagabond," has grossed $80,000 for seven weeks at the London Pavilion Theatre, James Mulvey, Cagney's New York sales representative, has disclosed.

'Open Road' Overseas

Charles R. Rogers, producer of United Artists' "Song of the Open Road," has donated 61 16mm prints to the Army Overseas Motion Picture Service.





S. R. KENT

In Memoriam

March 19, 1942

FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 56 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1944 TEN CENTS

Withholding Only 1% of War Footage

War Department Reports Releases to Date

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Since Pearl Harbor, less than 3 percent of the combat film footage photographed by accredited major company newsreel correspondents has been withheld for security or other reasons, the War Department reveals here, and most of that is eventually released. At present there are 14 newsreel correspondents actively engaged in filming the war in various theatres of operation and their film is pooled through, and released by the War Department.

Correspondents are given full cooperation, ranging from free transportation to the use of couriers in the combat area. A film "bank" now is being planned which will permit newsreel correspondents in the field to borrow, where necessary, U. S. Signal Corps raw film, thus acting as a protection against being without film in the event of non-delivery of their supplies from their respective companies.

(*Continued on page* 11)

N. Y. C. Precedent In Clearance Award

The American Arbitration Association appeal board here, in the first decision of its kind, has reduced to one day the prevailing seven-day clearance between subsequent run theatres in New York City. This decision reverses the award rendered by John K. Watson, arbitrator, who dismissed the clearance complaint filed by the BKR Holding Corp., operating the Trylon Theatre here, against the five consenting companies, and grants the Drake a maximum clearance of one day over the Trylon.

"This case has been grossly over-

(*Continued on page* 11)

$155,812 Given Red Cross by Loew's, Inc.

Checks for $155,812, described as the industry's largest corporate contribution to the Red Cross so far in the 1944 drive, went out yesterday from Loew's here for allocation in all sections of the country where the company has theatres and where M-G-M has exchanges.

Of this amount, $80,000, or a 60

(*Continued on page* 12)

Edington, Others Bid for Wilmer Circuit Interests

Repeated bids running as high as $2,000,000 for the purchase of the Wilmer estate's interests in the upwards of 20 Wilmer and Vincent circuit's theatres in Pennsylvania and Virginia, have been made by a group headed by Harry E. Edington, who, up to now, has been engaged variously in Hollywood production as talent agency head, talent manager and producer.

Walter Vincent admitted here to MOTION PICTURE DAILY that such offers had been made, but said he saw little likelihood of the consummation of a deal either for the Wilmer share in the properties, or for his own holdings.

"The Edington group has evidenced

(*Continued on page* 12)

Films War Antidote Says Gen. Osborn

Army jungle fighters in the Pacific put aside the hard reality of combat for the pleasant make-believe of motion pictures, literally within minutes of their return from combat missions, the War Department reported today.

In a report to Lieutenant General Brehon Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, covering a 30,000-mile tour of the Pacific war theatre, Major General Frederick

(*Continued on page* 11)

New Postal Rates Saturday Midnight

Washington, March 20.—Mail postmarked after midnight Saturday will be subject to the increased postage rates authorized by the new revenue act, Post Office Department officials announced here today. The price of stamps for local mail will be boosted from two to three cents and of airmail stamps from six to eight. The increases also affect parcel post, money orders and registered mail, while C. O. D. and insured fees will be doubled. Out-of-town letters, however, will still take three-cent stamps, and post cards will continue at one cent.

'Arms' at $108,000 In 3rd Week Here Leads N.Y. Grosses

"Unseasonable" weather which included rain last Friday, cold on Saturday and culminating in a snowfall which began Sunday night and continued as sleet into yesterday, is having some effect on grosses at downtown New York first-run theatres. However, most houses still report figures which are well on the profit side.

"Up in Arms" and a stage show at Radio City Music Hall is holding

(*Continued on page* 12)

Skouras-Rank Agreement Set For Signing

Document Now in Hands Of Attorneys

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, March 20.—Full accord on mutual production and distribution assistance between Spyros Skouras, head of 20th Century-Fox, and J. Arthur Rank, head of Eagle-Lion Films, has been reached here, and tonight a draft of their agreement was placed in the hands of attorneys, MOTION PICTURE DAILY learned. It is not expected to be signed, however, before Monday.

An important principle of the arrangement, it is reported, calls for 20th-Fox to aid Eagle-Lion in the matter of otherwise unobtainable manpower for provincial exchanges here and in America.

The first Eagle-Lion feature, the Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger production of "Canterbury Tale," made for Archers Film Productions, Ltd., is scheduled for de-

(*Continued on page* 11)

MPTOA Meets Clark On Decree Today

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The MPTOA executive committee convened at the Willard Hotel here today and continued its work of correlating the views of its affiliated regional organizations on distributor proposals for an amended consent decree into the night.

The lengthy session was dictated by the necessity for completing the MPTOA decree views and recommendations in time for the committee's

(*Continued on page* 11)

Producers, Unions Continue Meetings

Proposals of individual IATSE studio craft locals for a new contract to replace agreements which expired last Jan. 1, were discussed at yesterday's sessions between the producers' labor representatives and IATSE officials at the office here of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact.

Company executives and their labor representatives are scheduled to meet at Casey's office this morning with further sessions with the IATSE group scheduled for this afternoon.

Manpower Shortage Is Severe in Memphis Area

By LILLARD McGEE

MEMPHIS, March 20.—Film exchanges of Memphis have become virtually a "no man's land" as the armed services and the demands of defense industries cut more and more into the available manpower pool.

"It's awfully difficult," L. W. McClintock of Paramount declared. "If it gets any worse I don't see how we're going to keep film moving."

The lid literally blew off for McClintock recently when salesman R M. Hammond was accepted for service and salesmen W. C. Kroeger and Joe S. Young were ordered up for examination. "My head shipper also went and I have only two male bookers left," McClintock added.

(*Continued on page* 12)

Pressburger, UA Talking New Deal

Negotiations are underway between Arnold Pressburger, independent producer releasing through United Artists, and UA company executives for a renewal of his first three-year distribution contract, which expired earlier this year, Pressburger told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here. Consummation is expected within a few weeks.

His first under the new contract will be "Shadow in the Flame," which will go into production about July 1.

Two new properties recently acquired by Pressburger, are "The Dead City," French novel, and "Fantasy Of a Wise Crack," which will be retitled.

Coast Flashes

H. BRUCE HUMBERSTONE, 20th-Fox director, has signed a new long-term contract with the company.

•

Warners will release 16 short subjects, 11 of them in Technicolor, between March 25 and May 27, it was announced today by Norman H. Moray, general sales manager in charge of shorts.

•

Red Cross collection in Southern California and Arizona Theatres have been postponed until the March 31-April 9 period to permit the previous completion of house-to-house solicitations.

•

Columbia has announced 28 two-reelers for 1944-45, with Jules White and Hugh McCollum producing 14 each. They will star Hugh Herbert, Vera Vague, Andy Clyde and others.

•

Cornelia Otis Skinner and Emily Kimbrough have been signed by Paramount for "Our Hearts Were Growing Up," sequel to "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay."

•

20th-Fox has bought "No Place Like Home," a comedy of a discharged soldier returning to wartime New York. Irving Starr will be its producer.

•

Warners have announced "San Antonio," a Western laid in the 1850s, with Robert Buckner producing, Raoul Walsh directing and Errol Flynn starred.

•

RKO has announced for production, "That Hunter Girl," an original by Capt. Norman Krasna. Laraine Day and Alan Marshall are co-starred, Bert Granet will produce.

•

Ralph Lewis, 27-year-old player, has been signed by Monogram to a long-term contract. His first assignment has not yet been selected.

•

Barbara L. Worth, scenarist, was married to Capt. Maurice H. Conn, AAF, in Los Angeles at the weekend. Capt. Conn was a producer before his enlistment.

Durr Assisting Evelove

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—D. D. Durr, chairman of the Los Angeles Newspaper Publishers Association, has been appointed administrative assistant to Alex Evelove, director of Warner Bros. studio publicity, replacing Cameron Shipp.

Hagedorn to MOT

Charles G. Hagedorn has joined March of Time's advertising-publicity department here, it was reported here yesterday by Phil Williams, director. Hagedorn, recently honorably discharged from the Army, was formerly with newspapers and magazines.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, Loew's vice-president in charge of distribution, is celebrating his 35th year in the industry.

•

WALTER GOULD, United Artists foreign manager, plans to leave for the Coast on Friday for a visit of several weeks.

•

MAJOR JACK MULHALL, formerly Warner Theatre Philadelphia district manager, now in Italy, has been promoted to lieutenant colonel.

•

MAJOR FRANK E. CAHILL, JR., formerly Warner circuit director of sound and projection, has been promoted to lieutenant colonel.

•

WALTER R. IMMERMAN, general manager of Balaban and Katz, Chicago, and MRS. IMMERMAN, have returned from a week at Warren, O.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M Eastern and Southern sales manager, returned from Buffalo yesterday.

•

JACK SHEA of the M. A. Shea circuit, returned to New York yesterday from a tour of the circuit.

•

EDWIN W. AARON, M-G-M circuit sales manager, will leave next week for a two-weeks' vacation in Nashville.

•

PAUL KAMAY of the M-G-M exploitation department has resigned to join the OWI.

•

SAM SHAIN, 20th Century-Fox director of trade relations, has returned from California.

•

HY FINE, M. and P. Theatres' district manager, was a recent Hartford visitor from Boston.

•

SAM HOROWITZ, assistant manager at Loew's Poli-Palace, Meriden, Conn., is at Post Graduate Hospital here.

•

LARRY KENT of Loew's Palace, Hartford, is a New York visitor.

EDMUND GRAINGER, M. A. Shea theatre circuit general manager, has left New York for a month's vacation at Boca Grande, Florida.

•

KARL HOBLITZELLE, Interstate Theatres' president, and R. J. O'DONNELL, Interstate vice-president, will arrive here tomorrow, traveling separately, for Paramount circuit-partner meetings, HOBLITZELLE stopping off at Washington.

•

SAM KATZ, M-G-M vice-president and studio executive, scheduled to arrive here yesterday from Hollywood, will, instead, arrive tomorrow following a Chicago stopover.

•

LOU CHAPMAN, formerly Quigley Publications' advertising manager, is now Army No. 42,078,490, Battery B, 4th Anti-Aircraft Division, Camp Stewart, Ga.

•

S/SGT. M. O. RIKE, former Interstate circuit publicist at Dallas, has returned to his public relations post in the Marines' procurement office at Memphis.

•

LT. GEORGE PERAKOS, son of PETER PERAKOS, of the Perakos-Quittner circuit, was married in New Britain, Conn., last weekend to EDITH CZERTAK.

•

MADELEINE CARROLL has arrived in Italy as an American Red Cross nurse, press dispatches from Naples disclose.

•

ROBERTO D. SOCAS, PRC export manager, left New York yesterday for a six weeks' Caribbean and South American tour.

•

JAMES MCCARTHY of the Hartford Strand, is back home following a New York and Washington vacation.

•

JOSEPH BOYLE, manager of Loew's Poli, Norwich, Conn., has passed his Army physical at Albany.

•

JOE PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, will arrive here tomorrow from Hollywood.

George Kann, Loew Manager, 59, Dies

George Kann, 59, veteran Loew theatre manager, died yesterday morning while asleep at his home in Oakdale, L. I., after a two-year illness. Services will be held tomorrow at 1 p.m. from the New York and Brooklyn Funeral Home, 187 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn. Interment will be in Washington Cemetery, Brooklyn. He is survived by three brothers: Maurice (Red) Kann, vice-president of Quigley Publications in Hollywood; Benjamin and Selly, and his widow, Estelle.

For many years Kann managed theatres for Ward and Glynn, and when the Alhambra, Brooklyn, a stock company house, was taken over by Loew's in 1921, he remained as manager. In 1924, he was transferred to Loew's Willard, Woodhaven, L. I., where he remained until illness overtook him.

Bergin Named WB District Manager

PHILADELPHIA March 20.—Joseph Bergin, manager of Warners' Stanley in Chester, Pa., was named district manager for the Warner Circuit in the Southern New Jersey territory. He succeeds Morton Levine, who will leave tomorrow for the Army.

Walter Leach, manager of the State in Chester, moves to the Stanley.

UA Hosts Trade Press

Trade paper critics attended a dinner given by United Artists at the Hotel Brevoort here last night, prior to a preview of Edward Small's "Up in Mabel's Room" at Loew's Sheridan.

Present from United Artists were Carl Leserman, Harry Gold, Paul Lazarus, Jr., Arthur Jeffrey, Harry Kosiner, representing Small, and H. Spencer Berg.

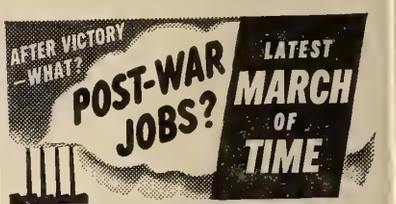
Exhibitors Honor Bob Wolff Tonight

The following are expected to be on the dais at the Robert S. Wolff testimonial dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria tonight: Sam Rinzler, who will preside; Edward L. Alperson, Harry Brandt, Leo Brecher, Max A. Cohen, Ned E. Depinet, Si Fabian, Ph[illegible] Hodes, Malcolm Kingsberg, Arth[illegible] B. Mayer, Robert Mochrie, Miss Lucy Monroe, Charles C. Moskowitz, Louis Nizer, N. Peter Rathvon, Phil Reisman, Leon Rosenblatt, Ed Rugoff, James F. Sauter, Fred J. Schwartz, William White and Wolff.

Sponsored by theatre owners of the New York area, over 800 persons are expected to attend the affair for Wolff, veteran RKO New York exchange manager, who leaves soon to assume the post of RKO British managing director.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
DANNY KAYE
"UP IN ARMS"
Dinah Shore • Constance Dowling
In Technicolor Released thru RKO
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600



RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
NOW PLAYING
Maria Montez • Jon Hall
Turhan Bey
'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'

LOEW'S State TIMES SQ.
On Screen
Dorothy LAMOUR
Dick POWELL
in Technicolor
"RIDING HIGH"
In Person
Molly PICON
Extra
THE STARDUSTERS

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Action Deferred on Schine Bid to Buy Cumberland Theatre

BUFFALO, March 20.—Federal Judge John Knight today deferred action on an application by the Schine Chain Theatres, Inc., to purchase the Liberty Theatre, Cumberland, Md., until April 10.

Thomas H. Burke, listed as the present owner of the Cumberland house, appeared before Judge Knight and expressed willingness to sell his theatre for $130,000. The circuit already owns the Strand Theatre, a first run, in Cumberland, and Burke told the court the Schine representatives so far are the only ones who have made an offer for his property.

Under provisions of a court order more than two years ago, which postponed Federal anti-trust proceedings against the chain, Schine must have court approval for the purchase of not only the Liberty Theatre but others.

The Government was represented at the hearing by Robert L. Wright of the Department of Justice, who opposed the purchase, declaring the Government would rather approve its sale to an independent exhibitor. The Schine interests were represented by Judge Clarence Goodwin.

CBS Annual Report Cites War Effort

Net income of Columbia Broadcasting for 1943 totaled $4,535,941, or $2.64 a share, compared to $4,123,698, or $2.40 per share for 1942, according to the company's annual report to stockholders.

Network broadcasts which dealt with war projects increased from 12,984 in 1942 to more than 17,000 in 1943. Actual hours of network operating time devoted to war subjects increased from 2,304 to 3,380, approximately 36 per cent of network operating time. The proportion of programs which devoted all or part of their time to war themes during the year increased from 48 to 58 per cent.

"The impact of wartime progress upon post-war television should be striking and far-reaching in its peacetime benefits and it has made almost certain television pictures of larger size and higher fidelity, richer in detail and in full and natural color, although continued transmission of lower quality pictures of pre-war standard may be necessary during an interim period," according to Paul W. Kesten, CBS executive vice-president.

Suspend Licenses For Over-charging

Four more New York ticket brokers have had their licenses suspended for overcharges estimated by License Commissioner Paul Moss as ranging from "about 50 percent to just about double the legal amount." One additional individual was also suspended.

The brokers suspended are listed at the Mayor's office as the Louis Cohen Ticket Agency; Oscar Alexander; Rialto Theatre Ticket Office; and Supreme Ticket Office. The individual is listed as Arthur Lemmon, employee of a ticket broker at 1632 Broadway.

Review

"The Lady and the Monster"

(Republic)

FROM Curt Siodmak's successful "chiller" novel, "Donovan's Brain," Republic has built "The Lady and the Monster" into a macabre horror tale that will tempt the cinematic appetites of even the most jaded thrill-film-followers. Here is a bizarre theme with a dual appeal; its attraction for those who glory in eerie lighting and impending violence, and the more subtle, intellectual fascination of the pseudo-scientific premise that a man's brain, once the body has ceased to function, can go on living in a disembodied state, pulsating with electrical energy and, finally, establishing contact with living men.

George Sherman, director and associate producer, has made this one of Republic's more ambitious current efforts, buttressing it with the excellent photographic work of John Alton, the effective music of Walter Scharf and special sound effects of Theodore Lydecker. All these craftsmen labor to make the theme acceptable and they are largely succesful. The powerful "brain," feeding on a special solution, grows stronger with each passing day until it subsists through its own energy. Finally it invades the mind and body of the man with whom it has communicated, through mental telepathy, making him a slave to its criminal impulses. He is only released when the glass containing the brain is smashed.

Assembled for the grim events are Erich Von Stroheim, as an unscrupulous scientist who initiates the strange experiments; Richard Arlen, his assistant, who becomes the body for the brain to inhabit, and Vera Hruba Ralston, the girl who saves him. Helen Vinson, Mary Nash, Sidney Blackmer, Bill Henry, Charles Cane, Juanita Quigley and Josephine Dillon round out an adequate cast. Josephine Dillon, singer, and Triana and Montes, dance team, contribute the only light moments, in a night club sequence, to the otherwise unrelieved proceedings. Screenplay was by Dane Lussier and Frederick Kohner.

Running time, 86 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

CHARLES RYWECK

*"G" denotes general classification.

Allbritton and Clyde Back from USO Tour

Louise Allbritton and June Clyde, screen actresses, have returned from a ten-weeks tour through England, Morocco, Italy, Sicily, Sardinia and Casablanca, where they entertained members of our Armed Forces.

Misses Allbritton and Clyde, whose personal appearances were sponsored by the USO-Camp Shows, performed before audiences as large as 9,000. Miss Allbritton will return to the Coast for her next Universal picture, tentatively titled "San Diego I Love You." Miss Clyde will return after a brief stay in New York with Captain Thornton Freedland, her husband.

Both players report servicemen have strong preferences for escapist films.

Schwerin to England

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., March 20.—Jules B. Schwerin, son of Charles Schwerin of Strand Amusement Co. here, will leave this week for England, where he will be attached to the London headquarters of the Office of War Information.

Screen 'Boys' Thursday

Universal will hold a trade screening of the Charles K. Feldman production "Follow the Boys," described as "show business' tribute to show business," Thursday at 10:15 A.M. at the Normandie Theatre here.

Sack Gets 'Nights'

DALLAS, March 20.—Sack Amusement Enterprises has purchased world rights to "Ten Nights in a Barroom" from K. Lee Williams and will reissue a modernized version, it was reported here by Alfred N. Sack.

Universal Shows 'Eagle' at Museum

Film bookers, trade press critics, members of the New York Zoological Society, Central Park Zoo, Museum of Natural History, and Universal home office executives attended the preview of "Eagle Versus Dragon" yesterday at the Museum of Modern Art. A reception in the museum's lounge followed the screening.

Among those present were Mrs. Daniel Mannix, co-author with her husband, now in the Photographic division of the Navy, of the film; B. Bernard Kreisler, head of the Universal short subjects sales department; Bob Wile, A. J. Sharick, Walter Barber, Marian Orford and Fortunato Baronat, all of Universal; Jack and Maury Shea of the Shea Circuit; Robert Bernhard, Loew's; Phil Pike, Warners; Sam Rinzler and Irving Hoffman, Rinzler Circuit; Stuart Martin; Miss M. Tighe, Embassy Newsreel; Alfred Berger and Milton Weissman, Telenews; Major Orton Hicks, Capt. Seymour Mayer and Monroe Greenthal of the Army 16 mm. Overseas Service, and Dave Dubin.

Allen Quits OWI for WB; Herrick on Job

WASHINGTON, March 20.—John Herrick has succeeded James Allen as assistant director of the Office of War Information's domestic branch. He was aide to OWI director Elmer Davis.

Allen will become associated with Warners, working with Charles Einfeld, vice-president in charge of publicity and advertising at the Coast studios. Allen will return to Hollywood in about two weeks.

Short Subject Review

"Main Street Today"

(M-G-M)

PRODUCTION skill combined with fine direction by Edward Cahn have made this presentation of a typical manufacturing community's wartime manpower problem an unusually good short subject. It will contribute to public understanding of the nation's manpower program and, accordingly, is deserving of the most extensive exhibition possible.

A War Department order for increased production requires 500 additional workers at a typical plant converted from peacetime manufacturing. Not only are there no apparent available workers in the community but there are neither the existent facilities for housing and feeding that number of workers if it were possible to recruit them elsewhere and bring them into the city. The problem is presented to a mass-meeting of the town's business people. Its solution is dramatic, pointed and packed with audience interest.

The narration of John Nesbitt is effective. The original story and screenplay is by Karl Kamb and Julian Harmon. Running time, 20 minutes. Release, March 25.

'Main Street' Has Meriden Premiere

MERIDEN, Conn., March 20.—Jimmy Durante and Luise Rainer headed film and radio stars who joined chairman Paul V. McNutt and Washington War Manpower Commission staff members here tonight in celebrating the city's selection as America's ideal war community, with the world premiere of M-G-M's "Main Street Today."

Mayor Francis M. Danaher, U. S. Senators John A. Danaher and Francis Maloney and Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin welcomed them. A tour of Meriden war plants was followed by a dinner attended by 400 war workers. McNutt presented a silver plaque honoring Meriden's war record in ceremonies broadcast over NBC.

Missing Unionists Halt WLB Hearings

ST. LOUIS, March 20.—The hearing before the Regional War Labor Board on the demands of St. Louis Theatrical Brotherhood, an AFL union, for a 15 percent wage increase and other concessions has been halted until April 10 because of the inability to serve subpoenas on three union members sought by exhibitors' operators as witnesses.

At the final hearing last week additional testimony was given to support the theaters' charge of dictatorial tactics by the union.

Albert Stetson, district manager of 12 neighborhood theaters operated by St. Louis Amusement Co., a Fanchon & Marco subsidiary, brought to the hearing 1,800 cards, describing as many theater jobs he had supervised while in charge of maintenance and repair work for Fanchon & Marco. Sixty-five per cent of the jobs, he testified, were done by outside contractors, although properly the duty of stagehands employed in the theaters.

It happened in a Jap prison on Mindanao

From a verbatim report by Commander McCoy, U. S. N., an escaped Prisoner of War:

". . . The escape plan had not matured, when there occurred an event which brightened the lives of all the American prisoners, at least temporarily.

"As I was returning from w[illegible] one afternoon in early January, I was met near the prison barracks by an enlisted seaman who had been attached to my unit at the Cavite Navy Yard.

" 'It's Christmas, Commander McCoy!' he shouted. 'It's Christmas!

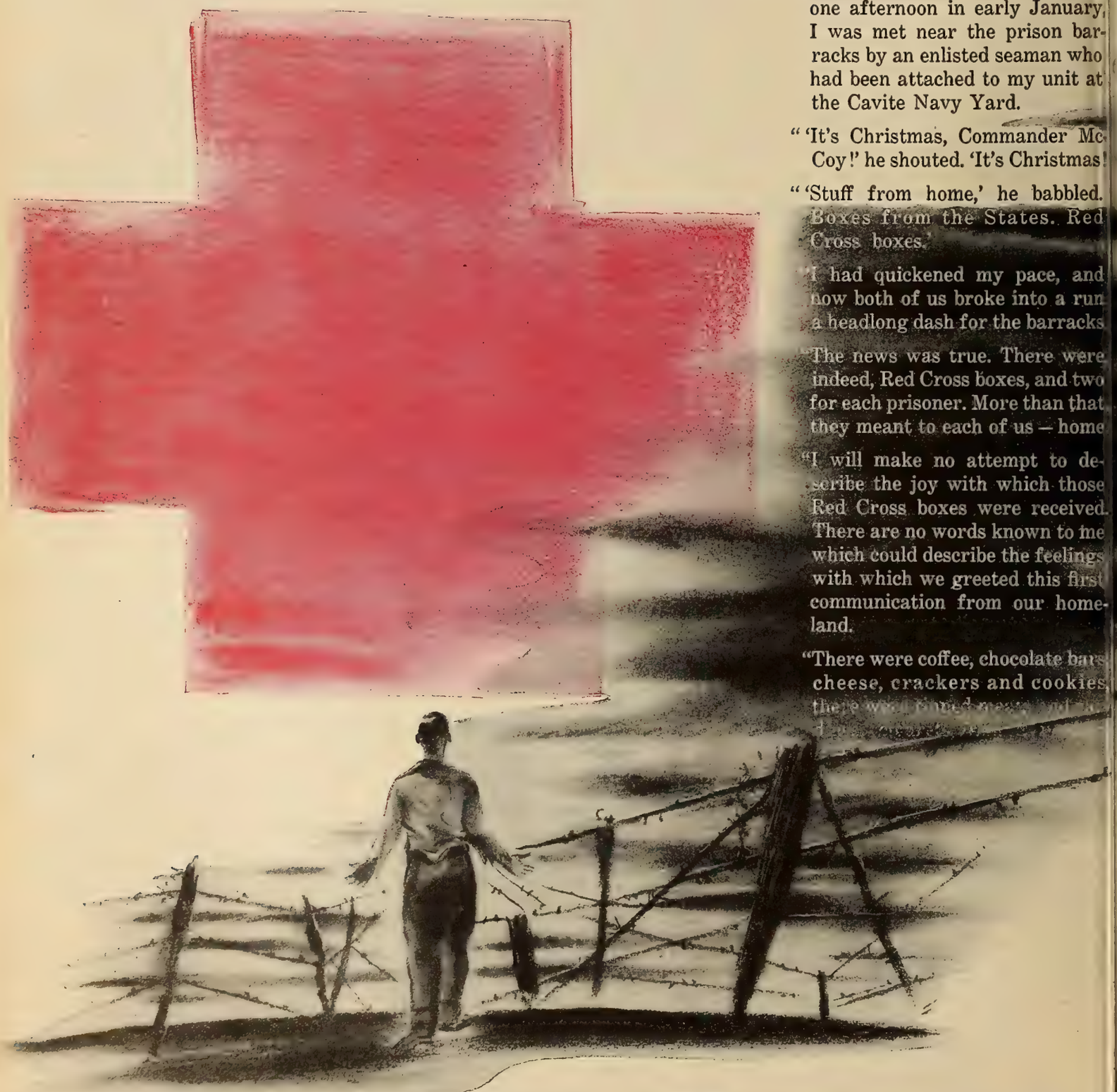
" 'Stuff from home,' he babbled. 'Boxes from the States. Red Cross boxes.'

"I had quickened my pace, and now both of us broke into a run, a headlong dash for the barracks.

"The news was true. There were indeed, Red Cross boxes, and two for each prisoner. More than that, they meant to each of us — home.

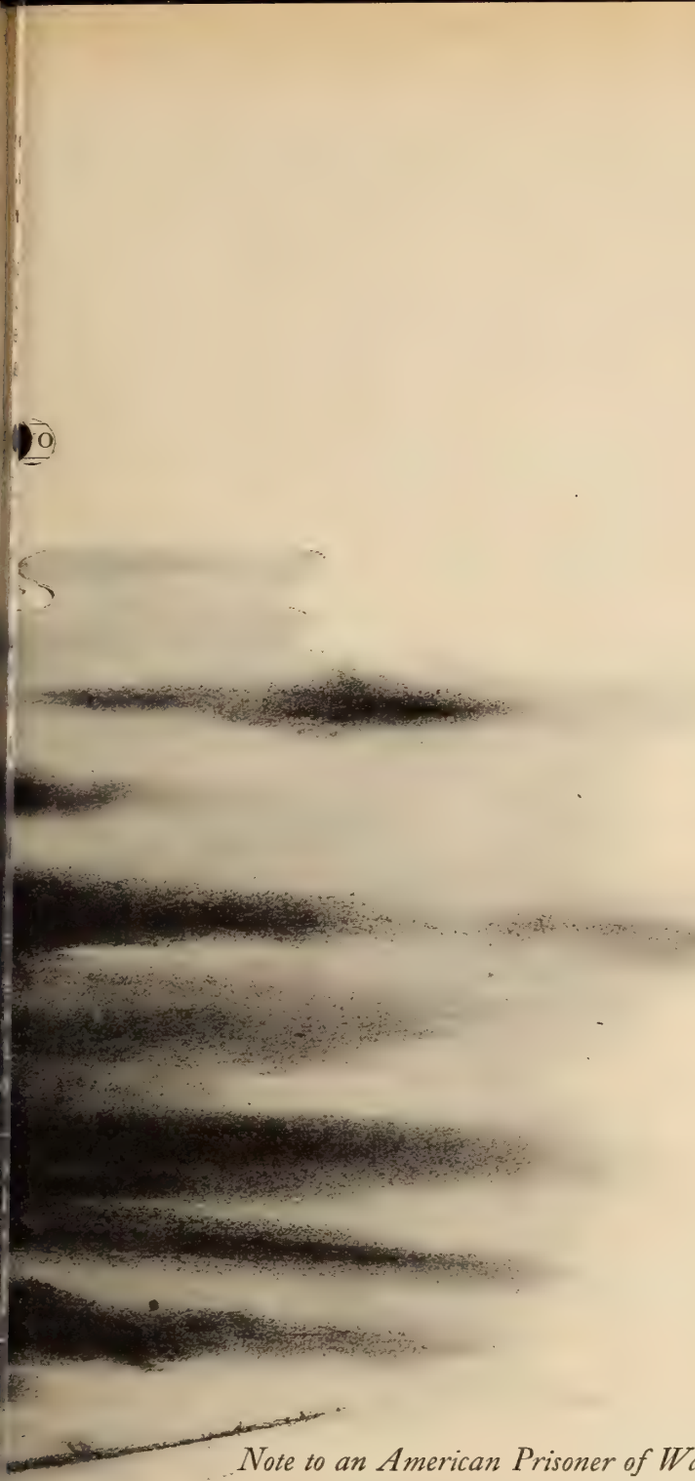
"I will make no attempt to describe the joy with which those Red Cross boxes were received. There are no words known to me which could describe the feelings with which we greeted this first communication from our homeland.

"There were coffee, chocolate bars, cheese, crackers and cookies, [illegible]



FOR THE SAKE OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR—AND FOR ALL THE OT

COLLECT AT EVE



Note to an American Prisoner of War from the American Motion Picture Industry

Dear Soldier:

You may be out of the fight but you're not out of our thoughts. We want to be sure you understand that all of us over here are grateful and deeply indebted to you for all you have done. We are humbly trying to *show* our gratitude in the only way we can – through the Red Cross. We know what the Red Cross means to you and we're all banded together to make it possible for them to continue to bring you cheer – till we meet again.

GOOD REASONS—COLLECT FOR THE RED CROSS MAR. 23—29, AND

PERFORMANCE

Legion Rejects 4, Finds 9 Acceptable

"Child Bride" a Bonded Film release, and the Mexican film, "Tentacion," Films Mundiales, have been classified Class C, condemned, for, respectively, "a sensual presentation of sordidness, suggestive sequences and dialogue, indecent costuming, excessive brutality and plot solution by murder," and, "indecent scenes and dances, suggestive remarks, etc."

The Legion this week also found objectionable in part, Class A-2, PRC's "The Monster Maker" and Warners' "Uncertain Glory" while approving nine other films. "Monster Maker" was found to contain "excessive gruesomeness" while in "Uncertain Glory" it was said "The deceits utilized in the unfolding of the story are approvingly presented."

In Class A-1, unobjectionable, were "Guns of the Law," PRC; "Hey, Rookie," Columbia; "Texas Masquerade," United Artists, and "Tunisian Victory," BMI-M-G-M. In Class A-2, unobjectionable for adults, were placed "Cover Girl," Columbia; "Four Jills in a Jeep," 20th-Fox; "Knickerbocker Holiday," UA; "Lady in the Death House," PRC, and "Ladies Courageous," Universal.

'Buffalo' Will Have Nine-State Premiere

"Buffalo Bill," 20th-Fox, will have its world premiere in 143 theatres in Utah, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado, Neraska, and New Mexico, starting April 10, William J. Kupper, general sales manager, announced at the weekend.

Managements of Fox West Coast Theatres, Interstate, E. J. Corder, Gibraltar, Cooper and other circuits will cooperate in the nine-state premiere. An extensive exploitation campaign will commence this week under the direction of Rodney Bush and Hal Horne. Lou Goldberg of the home office staff, has left for Denver to work with circuit and publicity managers there.

Petrillo's Boasting Prompts New Probe

WASHINGTON, March 20.—A reported published boast of James C. Petrillo's "power" to prevent high school music from being broadcast has resulted in the reopening of the Senate's inquiry into his activities. Chairman Clark has called an Interstate Commerce subcommittee to meet for renewal of its probe into the American Federation of Musicians president's ban on student broadcasting.

The chairman said Joseph E. Maddy, president of the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich., had sent copies of an article from the International Musician, official publication of Petrillo's union, in which Petrillo's control over recordings and broadcasting by union musicians was said to have been discussed.

'Screen' Canteen Birthday

First anniversary of the "Silver Screen Canteen," sponsored here by the Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, Local 109, and Screen Publicists Guild, Local 114, will be observed tomorrow evening at the Fraternal Clubhouse, 110 W. 48th St.

Reviews

"Heroes Are Made"

(Artkino)

NIKOLAI Ostrovsky's autobiographical novel, "The Making of a Hero," published in this country in a translation in 1937, inspired "Heroes Are Made," an interesting, dramatic Soviet film. It follows the fearless efforts of an intrepid band of youthful Red Partisans in the Ukraine to drive German invaders from their town in 1918; there is a close parallel in today's headlines.

V. Perist-Petrenko delivers an effective performance in the role of Pavel Korchagin, a lad in his mid-teens, whose experiences are those of Ostrovsky. His appealing romance with Tonia, played by I. Fedotova, is projected against the panorama of events which saw the Partisans organize and drive out the Germans. Mark Donskoy, Stalin Laureate, is credited both with script and direction of the production which was made at the Kiev and Ashkabad Studios in the USSR. English titles by Charles Clement are plentiful and make it easy for people unfamiliar with Russian to follow the action.

Running time, 74 mins. "G."* Release date not set.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

"The Laramie Trail"

(Republic)

Hollywood, March 20

FORGED for associate producer Lou Gray, under direction of Jack English, from a screenplay by J. Benton Cheney, "The Laramie Trail" measures up to the standard set in the earlier Bob Livingston-Smiley Burnette Westerns. It has no overabundance of plot, but sufficient to provide a basis for action.

Livingston, suspected of crookedness by the town lawyer, and Burnette protect an innocent man accused of a murder which has not been committed. They unravel the real crime, pin it on the man the sheriff had believed was the victim, but he's slain by a confederate. His dying words exonerate the other man and Livingston is cleared when a mysterious stranger proves to be his brother. Burnette's comedy registers in the right spots, with Livingston packing the right punch as the fighting hero.

Running time, 55 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set.

JACK CARTWRIGHT

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Tropical Signs for Monogram Product

Tropical Films, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, has signed with Monogram to distribute the company's 1943-44 program in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Virgin Islands, according to H. Alban-Mestanza, Monogram Latin American sales supervisor. Rafael M. Marti, Tropical president who is in New York, negotiated for his company.

Meanwhile, Luis Sanchez Amago, manager of Orbe Films, Havana, Monogram distributor in Cuba, is expected here this week to confer with Monogram's foreign department on his company's distribution program.

50 Allied Theatres To Play Monogram

CHICAGO, March 20.—Thirty additional Allied States theatres are represented in current contract negotiations for 1944-45 Monogram product, it was disclosed by Irving W. Mandel, Chicago Monogram franchise holder.

Deal is being negotiated by the Allied booking department. A total of 50 theatres will play Monogram's new product under the pending blanket contracts. Only 20 Allied houses bought from Monogram last year.

Ralph Maw to WAC

BUFFALO, March 20.—Ralph Maw, M-G-M resident manager here, has been named assistant chairman of the Western New York War Activities Committee.

Bell Seeks Permit For Television Net

American Telephone and Telegraph has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission to construct and operate a new ultra-high frequency radio communication system, supplementing long distance telephone facilities and providing transmission for television programs, it was announced at the weekend.

The Bell System, two weeks ago, announced a plan to construct six to seven thousand miles of coaxial cable linking key cities of the United States for National Broadcasting Co. The project will figure largely in NBC's television network plans in the next five or six years, it was said.

The new system would be built in two years at a cost of $2,000,000, A. T. & T. announced, and construction would be started as soon as engineers are released from war duties. Engineers said that directed radio beams at ultra-high frequencies would operate the new system simultaneously in both directions. Relay stations are planned to be spotted 30 miles apart.

Garrick Takes $15,500

CHICAGO, March 20.—The Garrick Theatre here grossed $15,500 for the week ending March 18 with "None Shall Escape" playing three days and "Return of the Vampire" and "Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" playing four instead of $12,000 for "None Shall Escape" playing alone, as inadvertently reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 17.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 20

THERE is a parentage question in Hollywood at the moment with two studios rushing into work pictures with titles so similar that one or the other undoubtedly will have to make a change. Republic has announced that Herman Millakowsky, who produced "Where Are Your Children?" for Monogram, will make "Where Are Your Parents?," which has just been changed to "Who Are Your Parents?"

Trem Carr has announced he will make "Are These Your Parents?" for Monogram's 1944-45 program. From what little advance information is obtainable it's apparent that both studios are in accord on one thing: A source of juvenile delinquency is parental laxity.

•

Jean Yarbrough is directing "Song of the Plains," which associate producer Warren Wilson prepared, at Universal. . . . Moss Hart completed the screenplay of "Winged Victory" before he entrained for New York. . . . RKO has signed Oliver H. P. Garrett to do the screenplay for Niven Busch's "Duel in the Sun," which Busch will produce.

•

Andrew Stone is conferring with United Artists executives on release of his "Sensations of 1944," starring Eleanor Powell. It will probably reach the market in May or June with the star doing several personal appearances in Eastern theatres. . . . Edward Ward is doing the musical direction on Universal's "The Ghost Catchers," new Olsen-Johnson starrer. . . . Barney Sarecky, Monogram associate producer, is preparing a story based on the life of R. McCullough Dick, publisher of the Manila *Free-Press*, for early production. Dick, who long sounded warnings against the Japs, is now a prisoner in Japan.

•

Producer John Grant has returned to Universal to prepare "Bowery to Broadway" (formerly titled "Hip, Hip, Hooray") for an April 18 camera date. . . . Republic has given Janet Martin, young singing star, a new term contract. She's co-starred with Allan Lane in "Call of the South Seas."

Several Bidding for 30 Goldwyn Reissues

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—"Negotiations in several directions" are under way for the sale of about 30 Samuel Goldwyn reissues for the market in this country, the producer stated here recently, but no deal has been closed.

The films, ranging from "Bulldog Drummond" to "The Westerner," have already been sold for showing in Chile and Argentina.

AMPA Meet Thursday

A business meeting of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers will be held in the Hotel Edison here Thursday, Vincent Trotta, Ampa president, announced yesterday. Heading the agenda is the selection of a nominating committee to select a new slate of officers for the annual meeting soon to be held.





Each ad is a ticket-selling honey . . . .


Too thrilling for words... so they set it to Music, Romance, Dance and Song!
THE WONDER OF LOVE IS IN IT!
THE MAGIC OF BEAUTY!
Rita HAYWORTH
GENE KELLY
Cover Girl
in TECHNICOLOR
with Lee Bowman • Phil Silvers
Jinx Falkenburg
Screen Play by VIRGINIA VAN UPP
Directed by CHARLES VIDOR
A COLUMBIA PICTURE
THE MOST MEMORABLE MUSICAL OF 1944!
An exciting motion picture experience you'll remember for years!
Music by JEROME KERN
Lyrics by IRA GERSHWIN
THE COVER GIRLS
15 of America's Most Beautiful Women!


The magical musical with miracle TECHNICOLOR!
It has everything you can ask for... in the grandest musical of them all!
Rita HAYWORTH
GENE KELLY
Cover Girl
with LEE BOWMAN · PHIL SILVERS · JINX FALKENBURG
Screen Play by VIRGINIA VAN UPP · Directed by CHARLES VIDOR
A COLUMBIA PICTURE
A memorable experience you'll always cherish!
Music by JEROME KERN
Lyrics by IRA GERSHWIN
THE COVER GIRLS
15 of America's Most Beautiful Women
WORTH
LLY
Girl
MUSIC BY
Jerome KERN
LYRICS BY
Ira GERSHWIN
THE
COVER GIRLS
15 OF AMERICA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN



And there are 24 other equally good newspaper ads where they came from

COLUMBIA PICTURES

MPTOA Meets Clark On Decree Today

(Continued from page 1)

scheduled meeting with Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark tomorrow.

Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, stated late today that the committee's decree report would be "brief and to the point; much more concise than the three reports delivered to the Department of Justice earlier by some other exhibitor organizations." Kuykendall declined to comment on the nature of the MPTOA report in advance of its presentation to Clark.

It is generally believed, however, that the report will recommend large block or full season selling with a straight 20 per cent cancellation, local mediation of trade disputes, more liberal arbitration rules and a standard exhibition contract.

Find Proposals Inadequate

Kuykendall and his associates consider the distributors' proposals to be inadequate in many ways and to be short of the foundation on which the organization has maintained a successful decree must be based, it was learned today.

The MPTOA brief will finish the round-up of exhibitor views which Clark has been making before working out proposals to be laid before the distributors within the next ten days or two weeks. The recommendations of the other associations already have been collated, and Clark has indicated that he will lose no time in renewing his contact with the companies, with a view to speeding up the negotiations, which now have dragged over six months, and get the whole matter out of the way.

N. Y. C. Precedent In Clearance Award

(Continued from page 1)

tried," the board charged in its opinion. "The record of 600 pages is an imposition upon the patience of the arbitrator and this board. A very substantial part of this record consists of mere verbal disputes between counsel. Arguments should be reserved for briefs and should not be transcribed into the record itself."

At the Los Angeles tribunal, James L. Patten, arbitrator, in the clearance complaint of L. W. Allen, operating the Southgate Theatre, Southgate, Cal., against the five decree companies, reduced the present 49 day clearance enjoyed by the Vogue over the plaintiff's theatre to 42 days, provided that the Southgate shall charge an adult evening admission price of at least 25 cents, exclusive of tax.

Costs were assessed equally against the complainant, the major companies and two intervenors.

Skouras-Rank Setup Ready for Signatures

(Continued from page 1)

livery on April 3 to Edward T. Carr, who has charge of Eagle-Lion in London.

No large-scale sales or publicity organizations are yet in being, but the agreement now potentially made solves these, and all such problems.

Films Called War Antidote By Major General Osborn

(Continued from page 1)

H. Osborn, U. S. Army director of the morale services division, Army Service Forces, said that motion pictures have proved an effective antidote to the tension and physical strain of battle, and that they are particularly welcome to men just returned from the front.

He said the distribution of first-run films to the various fronts by air is on a par with any similar commercial operation, and came about "because combat officers want their men to relax after they come out of the lines. The film has proved to be the solution. A screen against a jungle backdrop brings the soldier close to home."

Films Goodwill Factor

"This tremendous film circuit's value as a goodwill factor is beyond computation. In New Guinea, for example, where Australian and American soldiers fight side by side, they sit down to see an American film side by side. Our troops visit Australian camps, where the screen fare is predominantly American."

Osborn reiterated that newsreels, comedies, and musical pictures are high on the GI "hit" list. "Soldiers dislike war pictures with glorified heroes. They like to see informational films, those that explain war strategy and show real battle scenes. The soldier is anxious to see what his weapons can do. The Army's "Why We Fight" series has immeasurably bettered his understanding of issues at stake," he stated.

Osborn included Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, New Georgia, Bougainville, and Fiji in his itinerary. "I have seen tropical theatres seating 3,000 soldiers on wooden benches, and 1,000 sitting on crates and logs and oil tins in an outdoor excavation," he said.

Projector Repair Stations

The general found a number of projector repair stations in operation on Pacific islands. Although new projectors are being shipped overseas regularly, tropical rains and heat necessitate frequent servicing of equipment. "Even in isolated areas," said Osborn, "soldiers work wonders with bits of wire and paper clips in keeping projectors in working order."

Osborn explained that an average of more than 40 prints of three first-run productions, more than a soldier saw in an average civilian week, were turned over to the Army weekly, in addition to the informational and educational features produced and distributed by Army Service Forces.

Entertainment reels from 19 Army overseas film exchanges are transported by plane, boat, jeep, or hand-carried to the camp sites. Mobile special service companies with portable equipment and camera crews tour remote areas playing one-night stands.

Atkinson Rules Out Verbal Contracts

(Continued from page 1)

CHICAGO, March 20—"For the first time in 10 years there will be written contracts exclusively," explained Eugene J. Atkinson, new business manager of Projectionists' Union Local 110, in declaring at the weekend his policy in negotiations with theatres. He said verbal contracts of the past will be abolished.

"Contracts of all theatres will be open for inspection," promised Atkinson. "We are entering into uniform agreements so that houses of similar classification and capacity will be paying a proper wage scale. There will be no deviation from standard wages unless at open meeting our officers are instructed by the members to make changes. We are determined to reestablish the good name the union had prior to 1934 and bring back Democracy. We are not going to perpetuate any of the deals that sent men to the penitentiary and put a national disgrace on union labor. We have no affiliation with mobsters and owe no allegiance to gangs," he added.

Warner Brothers Theatres and the Schoenstadt Circuit are ready to sign new contracts, it was indicated by Atkinson.

Staggs To Cleveland

John Staggs, clerk at the Albany, N. Y., tribunal of the motion picture arbitration system, has been transferred to Cleveland in the same capacity, to replace Gordon Lind, the American Arbitration Association reports here. Staggs has been replaced at Albany by James A. Murray.

Withholds Only 1% Of War Newsreels

(Continued from page 1)

Exposed film carries the highest priority by Army Air Transport to War Department laboratories in Washington and to laboratories in London. Processing and review of the film, by the film security section of the War Department bureau of public relations, takes priority even over official U. S. Army Signal Corps and U. S. Army Air Forces films.

Even the three per cent of film withheld ultimately finds its way to the newsreels and eventually about 99 per cent is shown to the public. The one per cent not shown is of material that may definitely give aid or comfort to the enemy.

During the year, official U. S. Army Signal Corps and U. S. Army Air Forces film footage totalled 213 separate subjects issued to newsreels, amounting to 157,764 feet of film, while newsreel correspondents released 212 subjects totalling 177,826 feet. Increased Army operations since the first of the year stepped up the tempo of releases so that 46 official subjects were issued between Jan. 1 and Feb. 29, the War Department reveals. A large part of the footage also is used for Signal Corps training films.

Massey a Citizen

Raymond Massey, Canadian-born actor noted for his screen and stage portrayal of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," will become a citizen of the United States this afternoon when he gets his final papers at the Immigration and Naturalization office here.

200,000 Bonds Sold By Loew's Circuit In 4th Loan Drive

Nearly 200,000 "E" bonds were sold by Loew's theatres during the Fourth War Loan drive, it was announced here yesterday by C. C. Moskowitz and J. R. Vogel, operating executives. The money value of the bonds sold was $12,410,380; additional purchases by employes and executives brought the grand total to $25,214,605, of which the corporation bought $9,590,000 worth.

In announcing the official sales figures for the circuit, Moscowitz and Vogel paid tribute to the "patriotic, hard-working theatre managers and their staffs." "These men and women in the theatres, taking on the details and work of these special drives, are really the ones on whom the credit should be heaped," said the Loew statement.

Average 1,100 per House

The circuit averaged actual sales of "E" bonds to patrons in excess of 1,100 bonds per theatre. Loew's Boro Park Theatre, Brooklyn, Walter Heiber, manager, led all Loew theatres in the maturity value of bonds sold, at $572,450.

Carter Barron's Eastern division, comprising Washington, Baltimore, Reading, Harrisburg, and Wilmington, led the circuit in percentage of units sold against total capacity, with 121.7 per cent. Salli Levi's South Brooklyn division led in maturity value of bonds, at an average of $218,346 per theatre.

Selig Sets 'Honored 100' Machinery in Motion

With the arrival in New York of Robert W. Selig, assistant campaign director for the industry's Fourth War Loan drive and in charge of the "Honored 100" contest, preliminary judging of nominees to the top industry honor has begun.

Six state exhibitor chairmen, who, with state war finance chairmen, determine their state winners and aspirants from the population classification brackets in the competition, already have sent their certified choices to Selig, who has turned them over to Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery, certified public accounts, for audit.

State exhibitor chairmen have until April 1 to report their state selections, Selig said. Announcement of the final 100 theatre managers selected from over the country, Alaska and Hawaii will be made as soon after April 1 as possible, probably before April 15.

'Heavenly' Follows 'Chip'

M-G-M's "The Heavenly Body" is scheduled for a three weeks' run at the Capitol following one week of Universal's "Chip Off the Old Block." It, in turn, will be followed by M-G-M's "Broadway Rhythm."

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, young lady, expert stenographer, 6 years motion picture production in East; also training films, script clerk, edit scripts, creative writing, personable, versatile. Seeks motion picture or television connection. Available immediately, free to travel. Box 227, MOTION PICTURE DAILY, 1270 6th Ave., New York 20, N. Y.

'Arms' at $108,000 In 3rd Week Here Leads N.Y. Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

up well with $108,000 on its third week with $71,500 taken in on the first four days. The bill will hold for a fourth week.

Also showing good staying power is "Lady in the Dark" at the Paramount, with $90,000 expected in the fourth week. The picture and a stage show headed by Xavier Cugat and band are set to hold for a fifth week. The second week of "The Purple Heart" and a stage bill featuring Count Basie and his band and Carol Bruce and Zero Mostel at the Roxy will yield $83,000 and will hold over. "Shine On, Harvest Moon," with Russ Morgan and his orchestra and Borrah Minnevitch and his "Harmonica Rascals" on the stage at the Strand will do about $50,000 on a second week and the bill will hold over. The single week for "Chip Off the Old Block" at the Capitol with a stage bill is expected to yield $47,500. M-G-M's "The Heavenly Body" and a stage show featuring Jimmy Durante and Bonita Granville will open at the Capitol Thursday.

'Song' at $47,500

The eighth week of "The Song of Bernadette" at the Rivoli will do about $47,500 and will continue. The final five days of the tenth week of "Lifeboat" at the Astor, ending Sunday night, brought approximately $8,800. M-G-M's "See Here, Private Hargrove," will start a run at the Astor tomorrow after a Red Cross premiere tonight. Fifth week of "Passage to Marseille" at the Hollywood will gross about $21,000 and it will continue. The first week of "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves" at the Palace is expected to be $35,000 and will hold over. "Ladies Courageous" will do approximately $24,500 on its first week at the Criterion and will hold for a second. Initial week of "The Fighting Seabees" at the Globe is expected to yield about $25,000; the picture will hold.

Claimed to be a non-holiday house record, "Voice in the Wind" is headed for $17,000 on its first week at the Victoria. The picture has been set for several weeks at the theatre. "The Falcon Out West" will do about $7,500 on its single week at the Rialto. The M-G-M-released documentary, "Tunisian Victory" will open at the Rialto on Friday. Monogram's "Women in Bondage" will open at the renovated Central Theatre, renamed the Gotham, on Saturday when the theatre joins first-run outlets. M-G-M's "Whistling in Brooklyn" will open at the State on Thursday.

Storm Hits Business In Cincinnati Area

CINCINNATI, March 20.—The heaviest snow, sleet and freezing rain storm in several seasons has affected theatre attendance appreciably in the entire territory, making driving hazardous due to icy roads and halting intercity transportation. There has, however, been no halt in film deliveries.

Chaplin Trial Today

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—Charles Chaplin goes on trial in Federal Court here tomorrow on charge of violating the Mann Act in October, 1942.

Manpower Shortage Is Severe in Memphis Area

(*Continued from page* 1)

Norman J. Colquhoun of Republic Pictures said: "It's tough. We're losing continually to the Army and to defense jobs. There's not an exchange in town that doesn't have a turnover every week. I never even get to know my employes' names anymore, so fast do they come and go."

Many of the women being hired are also extremely impermanent, Colquhoun added, pointing out that an exchange will just finish training a new woman employe and she will leave.

Words Can't Explain

"Words can't explain how short we are," Ed Williamson of Warner Bros. declared. "I am working with only one man in our offices in addition to three salesmen and myself, and I have only one man in the shipping department. I hire girls, but they're always leaving. Many go to join husbands in service. We've been cleaned out three times in the last year in the booking department."

T. W. Young of 20th Century-Fox, J. J. Rogers of Columbia, Al Avery of RKO, Louis Ingram of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, James Pritchard of Universal and Bailey Pritchard of Monogram all have been having the same trouble.

A reception for M-G-M at the Variety Club recently was attended by some 35 women employes and less than 10 men including a local newspaper man and visiting M-G-M officials from Atlanta. Seventy-five to 90 of all film exchange employes here are women.

Equipment Situation Bad

The theatre equipment situation, while serious, is not causing theatre managers of the area quite as much worry as the manpower situation. New equipment is practically unheard of, but theatres are managing to keep operating by keeping old equipment in repair.

"It takes a lot of patching," Robert L. Bostick, manager of National Theatre Supply, reports, "but we're keeping the established houses operating and their owners don't have to worry about any new competition. The big shortage is in cooling equipment, especially freon gas, vacuum equipment and chairs."

There has been little effort to change over from freon to some other cooling agent since an employe of a Memphis theatre was killed in an explosion several months ago. "As they run out of freon, they're going back to their old blowers," Bostick said.

M. A. Lightman, president of the 80-house Malco circuit, reports his equipment needs are not serious. "We stocked up," he said, "when we could." "This last draft," he said, "is hitting us, though. Our big shortage is ushers and we're using some girls. However, we don't use ushers in the smaller houses."

Women Managers

A number of women have become managers for Malco. In Memphis, Mrs. Eddie Mae Baker became manager and Mrs. Nell McClaran assistant manager of Malco's first and second run downtown houses months ago. Mrs. Carrie Carimi is managing the Malco Capital and Mrs. Catherine Parham the Malco Joy. Mrs. E. W. Elrod is assistant manager of the downtown Malco, first run here.

Over the circuit several women managers have been appointed, Herb Kohn, general manager reports, and some three or four more will be appointed within a few weeks. Mrs. Harry Gilliland has replaced her husband at Camden, Ark.; Mrs. Harold Thomas has taken over for her husband at Fulton, Ky.; Mrs. Roy Evans, wife of a newspaper man, is the manager at Newport, Ark. At Paragould, Mrs. Orris Collins has taken over for her husband at the Majestic and Capital, Malco affiliates.

Using Circus Men

In Memphis, Mrs. Dave Flexer is operating her husband's Ritz while he serves in the Coast Guard. At the downtown Warner, Howard Waugh, Warner zone manager, is having the customary usher troubles. He has as doormen and office assistants a group of women and former circus men including Joe Simon and Bob Courtney. Cecil Vogel of Loew's Palace and Arthur Groom of Loew's State also report a shortage of ushers; no ushers are being used at matinees.

"We just can't get them," Vogel reported. "We are depending on those of school age and they are just not available in the afternoon."

Edington, Others in Wilmer Circuit Bid

(*Continued from page* 1)

interest in the circuit," said Vincent, "and there have been some conversations; but there have been no actual negotiations." The W. and V. group is of the oldest independent circuits in the business and numbers among its operations the Colonial, Rialto and State at Allentown; State, Altoona; Embassy and State, Easton; Colonial, Rio and State, Harrisburg; Embassy and Ritz, Reading; Embassy, Johnstown, and Penn., West Reading, all in Pennsylvania, and the Granby and Norva at Norfold and Carillom, Colonial, Lee, National and Park in Richmond, Virginia.

R.C. Preview for 'Hargrove' Tonight

Lt. Thomas Mulvehill, the Pvt. Mulvehill of "See Here, Private Hargrove," will hold a reunion with Sgt. Marion Hargrove, author of the best-seller, when the M-G-M film has its Red Cross military preview tonight at the Astor Theatre. The premiere will open the local industry's Red Cross drive and a number of tickets are going to those making extra contributions to the drive.

George Hamilton Combs, news analyst, will broadcast from station WHN at 8:45, interviewing Sgt. Hargrove, Lt. Mulvehill, former Gov. Alfred E. Smith, Brig. General H. N. Gilbert and Mrs. David Challiner, vice-chairman of the New York Red Cross.

$155,812 to R. C. From Loew's, Inc.

(*Continued from page* 1)

per cent increase over last year, is being given in Loew's name, and the remaining $75,812 in the name of some 14,000 exhibitors who played the "America Speaks" war shorts distributed by M-G-M. In making the announcement, president Nicholas M. Schenck complimented the exhibitors who paid for the shorts on a "[illegible] rate" basis. They were produced at actual cost without overhead.

Meanwhile, in St. Louis 33 Fanchon and Marco houses "jumped the gun" in the Red Cross campaign and reported $15,000 collected in the four days starting last Thursday, according to Joseph Bernhard, national chairman for the industry here. This figure compares with $34,000 turned in by 109 St. Louis theatres during the entire 1943 drive. "We hope to double the amount collected last year," Harry Arthur of Fanchon and Marco wired Bernhard.

Roxy Tops 1943 Figure

The Roxy Theatre in New York, another of the houses doubling their collection time, already has topped the total of its 1943 collections in the first six days of the present drive, Irving Lesser, managing director, stated yesterday.

Starting collections last Wednesday, the Roxy took in $8,536 in five days, and up to yesterday had exceeded $9,000, compared with $8,706 for the seven full days in last year's campaign.

More than 200 American Red Cross volunteer workers, who will act as Brooklyn theatre captains, started over the week-end to visit the borough's theatres in order to set up collection methods. Edward C. Dowden, chairman of the Brooklyn Chapter theatre committee, presided at a sendoff meeting, where other speakers were John Hearns, RKO district manager; Myron Siegel, Century Circuit publicity director; Irving Ludwig of Rugoff and Becker; Lou Levy of the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre, and Ben Simon of Loew's Metropolitan.

Philadelphia First To Be Pledged 100%

PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—This region today became the first territory to achieve 100 per cent pledging of theatres for the 1944 Red Cross War Fund drive. Earle W. Sweigert, local chairman, announced receipt of 757 pledges, almost as many as the previously reported total of signatures in Newark, New Haven, Albany, Delaware and Maryland.

Studio Red Cross Drive Is Lagging

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—The Red Cross "Invasion Year" studio drive is behind last year's drive at this point but has gained 4,000 subscriptions since a report at a luncheon held a week ago, chairman Frank Carothers has announced. The "Colonels," and "Majors" meeting at a luncheon at the Hollywood Roosevelt, set a goal of 23,000 subscriptions, 1,000 above the Red Cross war chest record and pledged a tighter canvass of upper bracket industry workers to increase total contributions. Warners, Goldwyn, Paramount, and Universal studios reported amounts subscribed to date exceed figures for the 1943 drive.

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Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 58 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1944 TEN CENTS

Foreign Dep't Heads Approve 'Global Plan'

World Representation for Industry Up to MPPDA

The proposal to provide official representation for the industry in as many world capitals as possible in the early future and in others after the war received the unanimous approval of major company foreign department heads at a meeting held yesterday at MPPDA headquarters.

As a result of the foreign managers' indorsement, the plan now will be presented to company presidents at an early

(*Continued on page* 12)

$7,500,000 'U' Notes Today

Public offering of Universal's new $7,500,000 of 3¾ per cent sinking fund debentures, due March 1, 1959, is expected to be made today through a group of 26 private banking houses headed by Dillon Read & Co., which on its own will underwrite $1,000,000 of the debentures. Charles D. Prutzman, Universal vice-president and general counsel, handled arrangements for the issuance of the debentures.



Charles D. Prutzman

The new financing will be used to

(*Continued on page* 12)

Skouras, Rank Talk Joint Production

London, March 22.—Among topics which Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, and J. Arthur Rank, British film leader, are currently discussing here for the mutual benefit of their companies both here and abroad, is a project for joint production of a number of films here, it was learned today.

WPB, Army, Navy Seek Deferment of Raw Film Experts

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Reports showing the employment of skilled men by age groups, production rates, etc., is being secured by Lincoln Burroughs, chief of the War Production Board motion picture section, for submission to the War Manpower Commission, possibly this week, in support of a joint WPB-Army-Navy plea for modification of present Selective Service policies which threaten to strip raw-film stock manufacturers of essential workers.

The material is being supplied by the raw-film makers, who also are submitting reports on past experience and their views on the effect on production of the general cancellation of deferments for men between 18 and 26.

When Burrow's material is submitted to the WMC, it will be accompanied by a presentation by the Army and Navy of their needs for film of all types: motion picture, x-ray, still camera, etc.

Material of this nature has never before been submitted to the WMC and in fact, it has not been necessary, but that agency is represented as facing a new problem because of the

(*Continued on page* 10)

Treasury Sets 5th Loan for May-June

Washington, March 22.—A Fifth War Loan drive to raise 14 to 15 billion dollars will be launched at the end of May or the beginning of June, Treasury Department officials said today.

Securities to be offered are expected to be almost identical with those offered in the Fourth War Loan which yielded over 16 billions.

Kuykendall to Meet Clark on Saturday

Reactions of Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark to the report and recommendations of the MPTOA executive committee on an industry consent decree are expected to be made known at a meeting between Clark and Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, scheduled for Saturday in Washington.

The MPTOA views on an industry decree were compiled by the executive committee on Monday and were presented to Clark the following day.

Kuykendall arrived in New York from Washington yesterday.

Red Cross Collections at 14,764 Houses Start Today

With the best start in the history of motion picture theatre collections, the industry's 1944 Red Cross drive will get under way today in 14,764 houses in the greatest mobilization of theatres in behalf of the war effort or for any other cause.

More than 300 theatres "jumped the gun" by initiating collections as far ahead as March 16 and will continue through the regularly designated March 23-29 "Motion Picture Week." Many houses also will continue collections beyond March 29 if necessary to achieve quotas. Early reports show collections well above last year's in practically every instance.

A large part of the credit for the strong sendoff, as well as for the all-time record participation, it was stated here yesterday by Joseph Bernhard, the industry's national chairman in the campaign, goes to the 15 leading executives, both distributors and exhibitors, who toured the country at their own expense to assist local WAC drive chairmen in conducting rallies in 26 key cities. The speakers included, in addition to Bernhard, Ned Depinet, Harry Brandt, Harry Kalmine, Sam Dembow, Martin Smith, H. M. Richey, Andy Smith, Jr., Ben Kalmenson, E. L. Alperson, Ben Shlyen, Si Fabian, Abe Montague, Bob Mochrie and Francis S. Harmon.

Forty regional exhibitor chairmen and the same number of distributor

(*Continued on page* 10)

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
RED CROSS WEEK
MARCH 23rd - 29th

A.T.&T. Offers Television to Film Industry

Asks Hays to Pass Word To the Majors

American Telephone and Telegraph, in a bid to enlist the support and cooperation of the motion picture industry in its contemplated immediate and post-war television construction, has asked Will H. Hays, MPPDA president, as head of the organized industry, to present to the majors the Bell System's proposals "to consider on their merits any requests for television facilities."

Keith S. McHugh, A.T. & T. vice-president, proposes to provide an exchange of television information with the film indus-

(*Continued on page* 12)

$2,796,861 Net for Loew

Loew's, Inc., had a net profit after all charges and taxes, of $2,796,861 for the 12 weeks ended Nov. 25, 1943, a gain of $347,805 over the $2,449,056 net in the comparable period in 1942, David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer, disclosed here yesterday. This is equivalent to $1.67 per share on the common stock, against $1.47 per share in 1942.



David Bernstein

For the 12-week period in 1943 after subsidiaries' preferred dividends, Loew's share of op-

(*Continued on page* 12)

GB Lab Destroyed, Two Studios Bombed

London, March 22.—Recent Nazi air raids destroyed the Gaumont-British film laboratory and equipment. In addition, bombs damaged Sound City and Shepherd's Bush studios, it is now possible to reveal.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 22

THE Screen Actors Guild won important points in an NLRB hearing on the Screen Players Union petition for an election to determine a bargaining agent for extras when examiner Charles Ryan today ruled against a SPU request to subpoena topflight stars among SAG membership. Also denied was the demand to introduce the so-called Atherton report on SAG activities.

•

Roy Disney, business manager of Disney Productions, left here yesterday for New York to confer with Ned Depinet, RKO Radio president, on the world re-release of "Snow White" and also "The Three Caballeros." Vern Caldwell, Disney publicity director, will join the conferences.

•

Charles Skouras, Harry Cox, Tom Page and Andy Krappmann, National Theatres exectives, left here today by plane for two weeks in New York and Washington, both on company business and to windup the industry's Fourth War Loan drive participation.

•

Columbia has bought from Paramount the adaptation of the stage play "Burlesque" and will film it as Al Jolson's first production, starring Rita Hayworth.

•

Charles P. Skouras has presented $21,344 to the Red Cross as the contribution from Fox West Coast Theatres and subsidiaries. The amount is double that collected last year.

•

John Harkins will leave here tomorrow to open Vanguard's Eastern publicity office.

•

Condition of Myron Selznick continues critical, Dr. Kosky, his physician, reports.

•

Kay Boyle's novel "Avalanche" has been purchased by RKO.

Studio Costumers Give Contract Terms

Contract proposals of the IATSE Studio Costumers local No. 705 for a new agreement to replace the agreement which expired on Jan. 1, were argued at yesterday's sessions here between the producers' representatives and IATSE officials at the office of Pat Casey, producer labor contact.

The meetings will be resumed today with contract proposals of other of the eight IATSE studio locals to be heard.

Suit vs. 'U' Dismissed

Federal Judge Alfred C. Coxe in Federal Court here yesterday dismissed a copyright infringement action against Universal, based on the alleged infringement of the song, "Prelude to a Major," composed by Samuel Brodsky in 1941 for the Universal film, "Bad Lands of Dakota."

Personal Mention

HARRY BRANDT and Si Fabian will return from Washington tomorrow.

•

A. J. LAURIE, Empire-Universal Films executive and Canadian representative of Republic Pictures, was married this week to MISS SYLVIA OLIVIER of Toronto.

•

S/SGT. HAROLD F. COOKE, formerly at the Riviera, Scranton, and who is a prisoner in Germany, has been awarded the Air Medal.

•

QUENTIN MACLEAN of Shea's Theatre, Toronto, was married last Friday to MISS ANTOINETTE BAKER, chief of staff at Shea's.

•

WILLIAM K. HOLLANDER, Balaban and Katz publicity director, is due to return to Chicago from a vacation at Lake Arrowhead, Cal.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, head of M-G-M exchange operations, is now on an indefinite leave of absence, recovering from a recent illness.

•

CORP. BILL BROWN, formerly manager of the Pickwick, Greenwich, Conn., is in town and will leave in a few days for the Aleutians.

•

JOSEPH TINSLEY, assistant manager of the Penn Theatre, Wilkes-Barre, has resigned due to ill health.

•

WILLIAM WALSH, manager of the Comerford, Wilkes-Barre, has been inducted into the Army.

•

WOLFE COHEN, general manager of Warner Bros., Ltd., Toronto, was a recent Montreal visitor.

•

CHARLES LANDAU, independent Chicago theatre operator, has returned from a vacation at Phoenix.

•

HARRY WASSERMAN, M & P circuit's Boston district manager, is in town for a few days.

•

R. R. BIECHELE of Kansas City arrived in New York from Washington yesterday for a visit of several days.

•

HAROLD LAGAR, assistant to CLAUDE LEE at Paramount, will report to the Navy on Monday.

•

HERMAN STARR, head of Warner Brothers music companies, left the Coast yesterday for New York.

•

HENRY W. KAHN, M-G-M Chicago sales manager, will spend a two-week vacation at home starting April 1.

•

MORRIS LOEWENSTEIN of Oklahoma City is visiting in New York.

PHIL REISMAN, RKO Radio foreign distribution vice-president, left yesterday on a six-week trip to Mexico and Cuba.

•

VAN HOLLOMAN of Interstate circuit's legal department, Dallas, and CONRAD BRADY, producer of "Showtime," Interstate's weekly Sunday afternoon radio program on WFFA, will report to the Navy soon.

•

BENN ROSENWALD, M-G-M Charlotte branch manager, has returned to his headquarters after several days of conferences with district manager RUDOLPH BERGER in Washington.

•

REX WILLIAMS, manager of Loew's State, St. Louis, and HUBERT SCOTT, manager of Loew's Orpheum, took their physicals at Jefferson Barracks this week.

•

HARRY J. SHAD, operator of the Strand and Astor Theatres, Reading, Pa., and PAUL ESTERLY, manager of the latter house, have left for Florida visits.

•

ULRIK F. SMITH, Paramount's Philadelphia branch manager, has been appointed local industry chairman for the 1944 Salvation Army campaign next month.

•

BEN FISH, field representative for SAMUEL GOLDWYN, has left here on a 15-city business tour. He will be in Boston until Monday.

•

HARRY HIRSCH, operator of the Spruce, Century and Pike theatres in Philadelphia, is hospitalized following a heart attack.

•

MAJOR PEYTON GIBSON of the Army Air Corps, formerly secretary of Universal, was a visitor at the home office yesterday.

•

M. BRAZEE, Warner Brothers Theatres Wisconsin district manager, has left for a three-week vacation in Hollywood.

•

KARL HEYL, assistant contact manger in Chicago for Warner Brothers Theatres, has been inducted into the Navy.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, Warner short subject sales manager, is en route from the Coast to Kansas City and will visit Southern exchanges thereafter.

•

EVELYN ROSS, for the past 16 years assistant manager of the Plaza, Queens, L. I., has resigned to be married.

•

AL PICOULT, managing editor of *Harrison's Reports*, has passed his Army physical and is awaiting call.

20th Has 3,333 in Service

Twentieth-Fox now has 3,333 employes in service of which 1,305 are now overseas, it was reported here yesterday by the home office. Thirty-nine are with the Wacs, Waves, Spars or Women's Marine Corps.

Episcopal Actors' Benefit

The Episcopal Actors' Guild war activities will benefit from the proceeds of the fifth annual bridge party and entertainment to be given under the guild's auspices on April 14 in the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria here.

Army Not to Press On Types of Films

WASHINGTON, March 22. — Film preferences of servicemen overseas, as reported by Major General Frederick H. Osborn of the Army Morale Division last week upon his return from a tour of the Pacific battlefronts, will not be formally laid before the industry, it was learned today at the War Department.

A spokesman for the Department said that Osborn believes members of the industry concerned with films for soldiers will read the report and that he hopes they themselves may take any steps necessary to meet servicemen's desires.

It was said at the Department that the industry is doing a good job on films for troops and is capable of handling any problems that may arise. It was here also indicated that there is a desire to avoid any action which might look like pressure upon the film companies to provide some special type of pictures.

Eaton to Trial for Staff Man's Death

MEMPHIS, March 22. — John W. Eaton, owner and manager of the Peabody Theater here, will go on trial Tuesday, March 28 in Criminal Court here on a charge of second degree murder as a result of the explosion at the theatre Aug. 17, 1943, in which Elroy R. Curry, maintenance man, was killed.

The explosion allegedly occurred when Eaton substituted methyl chloride in the theater's air conditioning system which was designed for the use of freon exclusively, after freon had been frozen by the War Production Board. Eaton has been free under bond operating his theatre while awaiting trial.

Meeting of Creditors Of Grand National

Peter B. Olney, referee in bankruptcy, in U. S. District Court here, this week notified creditors of Grand National Pictures, bankrupt, of a special meeting at his office, in U. S. Court House, Foley Square, on March 31 at 10a.m., to act upon an offer by Screencraft Pictures to pay to Harry G. Fromberg, trustee, $5,000 for all rights and interest in the bankrupt estate. This will not alter the trustee's position with the right to collect and receive percentages and other receivables from Mohawk Film Corp., distributors of pictures of the bankrupt estate.

Cleveland Dinner for Boasberg and Kranze

CLEVELAND, March 22.—A testimonial dinner for Charles Boasberg, recently promoted from RKO district manager to Eastern division sales manager, and his successor, Bernard Kranze, formerly RKO branch manager, will be held on April 10 at the Hollenden Hotel here.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

HOW TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE BOGART





A HAL B. WALLIS PRODUCTION
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL CURTIZ

"PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE", starring Humphrey Bogart, is the story of an outcast . . . forgotten by, but not forgetting, the land that banished him . . . and of how jungle and shackles and mutiny could not stop him from going home.

Entertainment? Certainly! For entertainment is our business — a business in which Warner Bros. is a widely-recognized leader.

And that leadership is based on this Company's ability to make one picture satisfy *two* values!

One value is entertainment.

The other is best expressed in a long-standing Warner Bros. policy . . . of producing *films that will help to champion the basic freedoms of democracy.*

You've seen that policy applied — in 'This Is The Army', 'Air Force', 'Princess O'Rourke', 'Destination Tokyo', 'Watch On The Rhine', 'In Our Time', and many other Warner Bros. pictures.

Be sure to see it again — in 'PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE', 'THE ADVENTURES OF MARK TWAIN', 'UNCERTAIN GLORY' and other Warner Bros. pictures to come! Then you'll know why the New York Times referred to this Company's *"enviable record for combining good citizenship with good picture-making".*

WARNER BROS.

JACK L. WARNER, *Executive Producer*

with this remarkable supporting cast:
CLAUDE RAINS • MICHELE MORGAN • PHILIP DORN • SYDNEY GREENSTREET • HELMUT DANTINE • PETER LORRE • GEO. TOBIAS

Screen Play by Casey Robinson & Jack Moffitt • From a Novel by Charles Nordhoff & James Norman Hall • Music by Max Steiner

This advertisement is the latest of the series now appearing in national publications. And, as is the custom of this company, prints of this picture as well as the others mentioned have been rushed abroad for immediate showing to the men in service.

Red Cross Drive!
Collect Every Performance March 23-29!

Production on Coast Spurts To 46 Filming

HOLLYWOOD, March 22.—Production showed a decided increase during the week, the first since the boom days of last year, with 15 new pictures on the stages and six finished to bring the total in work to 46. The previous week saw nine started, three finished and 37 before the cameras. The production scene:

Columbia

Started: "The Impatient Years" with Jean Arthur, Lee Bowman, Charles Coburn, Edgar Buchanan, Charley Grapewin, Grant Mitchell, Phil Brown. "Soldiers in Slacks" with Beulah Bondi, Nina Foch, Lloyd Bridges, Jess Barker, Erik Rolf, Percy Kilbride, (Miss) Jeff Donnell. "America's Children" with Otto Kruger, Clifford Severn, Pat Parrish, Danny Jackson, Howard Freeman, Jemmy Clark, Anna Fenke.

Shooting: " Calling All Stars," "Mr. Winkle Goes to War."

Finished: "Pilebuck."

M-G-M

Started: "Gold Town" with Wallace Beery, Binnie Barnes, Frances Rafferty, Bruce Kellogg, Donald Meek, Henry O'Neill, Chill Wills, John Carradine, Noah Beery.

Shooting: "Mrs. Parkington," "The Picture of Dorian Gay," "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Secrets in the Dark," "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "National Velvet."

Monogram

Started: "Call of the Jungle" with Ann Corio, James Bush, John Davidson, Muni Seroff, Claudia Dell, Harry Burns, Ed Chandler.

Shooting: "Hangman's Law."

Paramount

Shooting: "Practically Yours," "Bring on the Girls."

PRC

Started: "Waterfront" with J. Carrol Naish, John Carradine, Maris Wrixon, Terry Frost, John Bleifer, Olga Fabian.

Shooting: "Minstrel Man."

Finished: "Ringside."

RKO-Radio

Started: "The Falcon in Mexico" with Tom Conway, Mona Maris, Martha MacVicar, Fortunio Bonanova. "Mademoiselle Fifi" with Simone Simon, Kurt Kreuger, Alan Ward. "Cocktails for Two" with Anne Shirley, Dennis Day, Leon Errol. "Belle of the Yukon" (International) with Randolph Scott, Gypsy Rose Lee, Dinah Shore, Bob Burns, Charles Winninger, Robert Armstrong, Florence Bates, Barbara Hale, William Marshall.

Shooting: "None But the Lonely Heart," "Heavenly Days," "Manhattan Serenade," "Casanova Brown" (International).

Republic

Started: "Marshal of Reno" with Bill Elliott, Bobby Blake, George (Gabby) Hayes, Alice Fleming, Jay Kirby, LeRoy Mason. "Call of the Rockies" with Smiley Burnette, Sonny (Sunset) Carson.

Shooting: "Call of the South Seas," "Goodnight, Sweetheart."

Finished: "Tucson Raiders," "Yellow Rose of Texas."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Wing and a Prayer," "The Keys of the Kingdom," "Sweet and Lowdown."

Finished: "Wilson."

United Artists

Started: "Here Is Your War" (Lester Cowan), "Abroad with Two Yanks" with Dennis O'Keefe, William Bendix, Helen Walker, John Loder, Tony Devlin, Janet Lambert, George Cleveland, Arthur Hunnicutt.

Universal

Started: "Dead Man's Eyes" with Lon Chaney, Jr., Jean Parker, Paul Kelly, Edward Fielding, George Meeker, Burnu Acquanetta, Jonathan Hale, Thomas Gomez.

Shooting: "Murder in the Blue Room," "The Ghost Catchers," "The Climax."

Warners

Shooting: "The Very Thought of You," "The Conspirators," "To Have and Have Not," "The Doughgirls," "Cinderella Jones."

Finished: "Janie."

Review

"Lady in the Death House"

(PRC)

Hollywood, March 22

DESPITE its shop-worn plot, "Lady in the Death House" turns out to be a reasonably good mystery-drama due to performances of a competent cast, excellence of direction and skillful editing.

Jean Parker does a nice job of the girl condemned to death for murdering a blackmailer whom she feared but did not kill. Bruce Fowley plays her sweetheart, also state executioner, who locks himself in the control room to delay the execution in the hope of Lionel Atwill's success as a criminologist hot after the real murderer. Marcia Mae Jones plays the giddy sister of the condemned girl and is finally frightened into revealing a real clue to the slayer just in time. Atwill also does a smooth job of the narrator in the telling of the story in flashbacks.

Steve Sekely directed for producer Jack Schwarz and associate producer Harry D. Edwards. Harry O. Hoyt scripted from an original by Frederick C. Davis.

Running time, 56 minutes. "G."* Release date, March 15.

JACK CARTWRIGHT

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Universal to Appeal Cummings Decision

HOLLYWOOD, March 22.—Universal will file a motion for a new trial of the suit brought against the company by Robert Cummings and will appeal Federal Judge Harry Holtzer's decision of March 6 whereby the actor was awarded $10,250 back salary and held to be within his rights in considering his contract breached when the studio refused to cast him in other pictures after he had refused a role in "Fired Wife" on the ground that it would be detrimental to his standing as a player.

Yesterday, paralleling action Warners recently took in the similar Olivia De Havilland case, Universal wired all producers cautioning them that it regards Cummings as still under exclusive contract.

'Glory' Set for Strand

Warner Bros. "Uncertain Glory" starring Errol Flynn and Paul Lukas, has been set to open at the New York Strand on Friday, April 7, following "Shine On Harvest Moon." W. B.'s "The Adventures of Mark Twain" will follow "Passage to Marseille" at the Hollywood in New York late in April.

New Setup in WB Checking Service

Warner Bros.' film checking service in California, formerly supervised from the Los Angeles office, has been reorganized with headquarters split between that city and San Francisco, it was disclosed by the home office here recently.

Edward Resnick has been named field supervisor for the Northern part of the state, while Ben Taylor will remain in Los Angeles to direct the Southern territory.

'Snow White' Set for 50 Houses on Easter

Fifty theatres in the RKO, Singer, Central State and Pioneer circuits will play Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" during Easter. The picture will open at the Orpheum, Des Moines, April 7, and the Brandeis, Omaha, April 5.

Personal appearances of several of the original Disney characters will precede the Easter openings in Des Moines and Omaha.

B. & K. Buying for New Postwar 1st Run

CHICAGO, March 22.—Purchase of more land at State and Lake streets for a new postwar theatre has been made by Balaban and Katz. The frontage is valued by assessors at $182,066, but was bought by B. and K. for $22,000.

The new theatre is to replace the Apollo in the Ashland block which will be torn down after the war.

'Ape' to Stage

Jules Levey, producer of United Artists' "The Hairy Ape," is planning to produce that Eugene O'Neill play as a summer stock venture for four weeks around New York. William Bendix, star of the film, will be featured if film committments permit.

Ampa Will Meet Today

Associated Motion Picture Advertisers will meet at the Hotel Edison here today to select a nominating committee which will select a new slate of officers for the annual meeting to be held soon. Other organization business will also be discussed.

Loew Stand on Deal For Pickwick Aired

NEW HAVEN, March 22.—Alleged "abortive" negotiations in 1939 looking to the purchase of the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, by Loew's, Inc., were clarified here today in the trial of the Prefect anti-trust suit against the majors when the plaintiffs called a surprise witness, Fred Whelan, until recently a special assistant U. S. Attorney General and now with the U. S. Alien Property Custodian.

Whelan testified that he was present in November, 1939, at a conference in the office of Nicholas M. Schenck, Loew's president, which, the witness said, resulted in Schenck's suggestion that he would take over the Pickwick for one year and show that it could be operated profitably under then existing clearance.

Rubin Withheld Approval

One month later, Whelan added, he was asked by J. Robert Rubin, Loew-M-G-M counsel, whether the Department of Justice would approve such a transaction, to which, the witness said, he answered that neither approval or disapproval could be given because the consent decree called merely for circuits to file notice of acquisitions with the Department and did not provide for sanction. This resulted in Rubin's stating that he would advise against obtaining the Pickwick, Whelan said.

Following this development, Whelan said, he held conferences with numerous distributor officials to ask why they would not give E. J. Peskay, Pickwick operator, the improved clearance he requested, and that they replied, generally, that they thought they had already given him a good run.

Whelan further testified that he was a resident of Greenwich and that many people there went to Stamford to see films rather than wait for them to reach the Pickwick.

The only other witness of the day was Gordon E. Youngman, RKO general counsel, who explained the corporate set-up under which his company had operated the Pickwick from 1931 to 1933.

Also placed in testimony was a deposition from George P. Skouras, president of Skouras Theatres Corp., stating that his company followed a policy of never seeking to improve clearance arrangements except through pooling. A deposition from Spyros Skouras was also entered.

Atlanta Branch Is 16th for Classics

George A. Hirliman, president of Film Classics, yesterday disclosed here that the company's 16th franchise arrangement had been established in Atlanta, from where John W. Mangham will distribute the company's product in Atlanta and Florida territories.

Other Film Classics states-right tieups are in New York, Boston, New Haven, Philadelphia, Washington, Charlotte, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Wm. Vogel Improved

William Vogel, industry pioneer in foreign distribution, is recovering from illness at Ossining Hospital, Ossining, N. Y.

IN APPRECIATION



TO ALL M-G-M CUSTOMERS IN THE UNITED STATES:

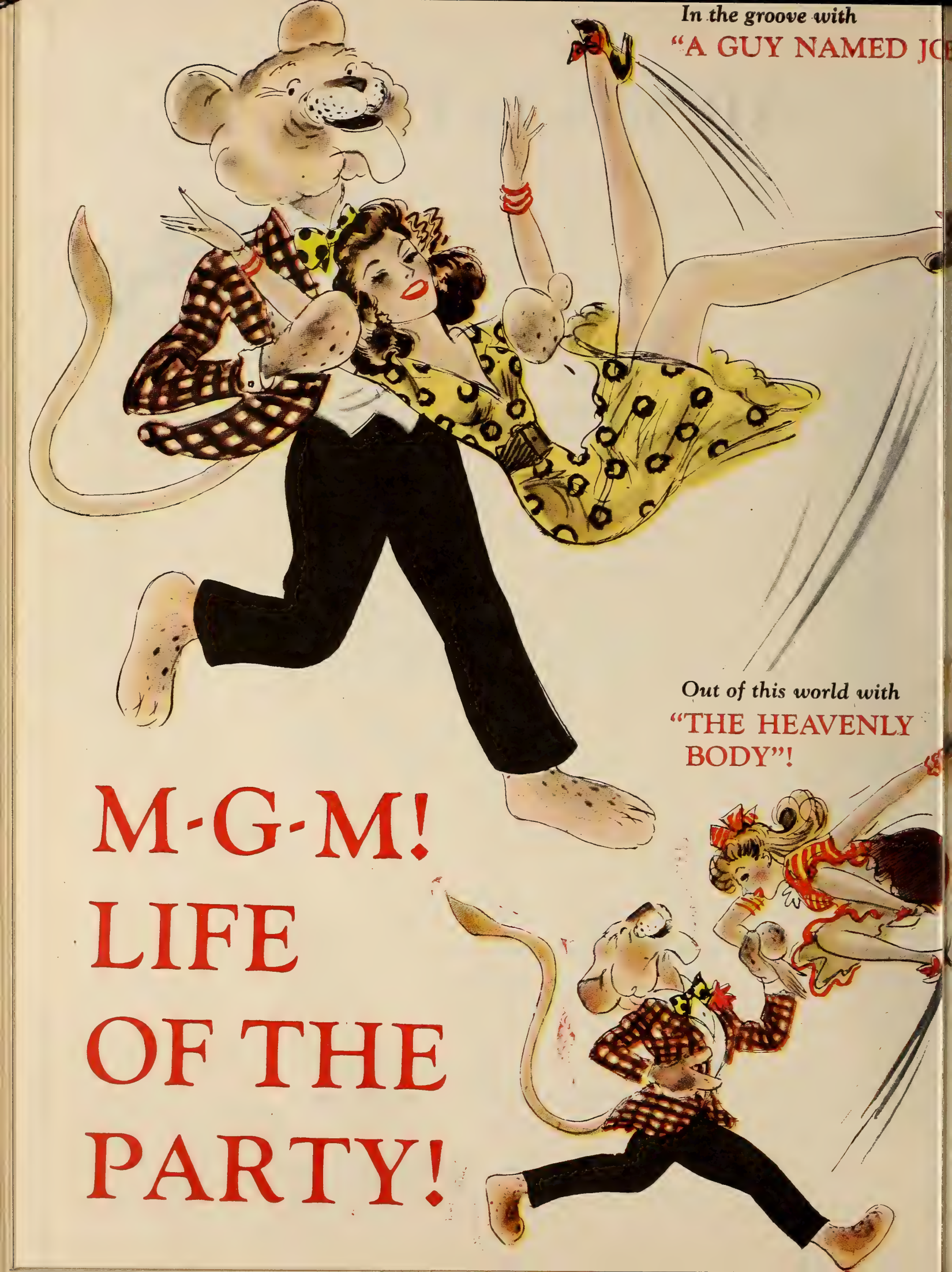
Because you booked and played our America Speaks subjects, and supported us so generously with your playing time, we have issued to the AMERICAN RED CROSS checks allocated to the individual exchanges in proportion to the showings obtained by each exchange in the total amount of $75,812.18.

This sum becomes the joint contribution of you and Loew's, Inc., and represents the proceeds of these America Speaks subjects produced by us at actual cost without overhead and distributed by us without cost, and exhibited by you.

Only your complete cooperation and full support of our undertaking has made this contribution possible. We shall add to it our own donation of $80,000., or a total of $155,812.18.

Thank you for your generous support in this endeavor and for the cooperation you have so many times given us.

LOEW'S, INCORPORATED
Nicholas M. Schenck, President


In the groove with
"A GUY NAMED JO
Out of this world with
"THE HEAVENLY BODY"!
M-G-M!
LIFE
OF THE
PARTY!

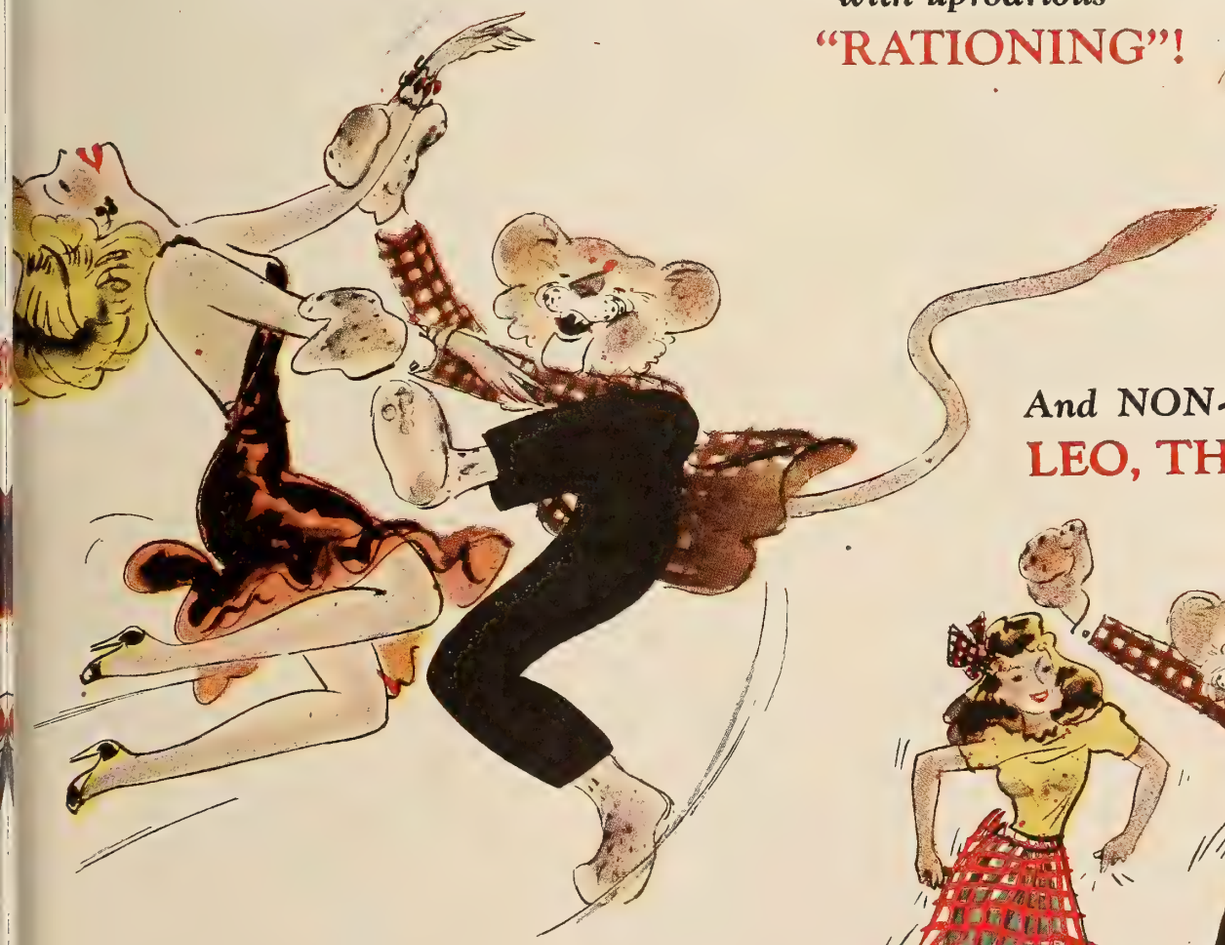
Stepping out with
"SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE"!





Riding high with uproarious
"RATIONING"!

Flying right with
'BROADWAY RHYTHM"!



And NON-STOP with
LEO, THE LION!



"Red Cross Drive! Collect Every Performance Every Day. March 23rd Through March 29th."

'Marseille' First Week Is $12,700 Over House Par

PHILADELPHIA, March 22.—Faced with heavy snow and rain over the weekend, business held uniformly good at the downtown houses. Leading as the only new opening, "Passage to Marseille" points to a heavy $35,200 at the Mastbaum in addition to $4,200 grossed for a dual Sunday showing at the Earle.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 22-24:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
ALDINE—(900) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $24,200. (Average: $14,600).
"Where Are Your Children?" (Mono.)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $3,800. (Average: $4,000).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $18,000).
"Phantom Lady" (Univ.) (6 days)
"Passage to Marseille" (WB) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c). On stage: Blue Barron's orchestra, directed by Tommy Ryan, Mary Beth Hughes, Jack Durant, Mert Curtis, Cliff Grass and the Three Blue Notes. Gross: $26,700. (Average: $27,800).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
FOX—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $20,500).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
KARLTON—(1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,600).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
KEITH'S — (2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $5,800).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
MASTBAUM—(4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $35,200. (Average: $22,500).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
STANLEY — (3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $20,000).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
STANTON—(1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,400. (Average: $9,400).

'Tender Comrade' Sets Toronto Pace

TORONTO, March 22.—"Tender Comrade" headed for $15,300 at the Imperial Theatre to set the week's pace while "The Purple Heart" looked like $14,300 at Shea's.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Mar. 24:

"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
EGLINTON — (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, moveover. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,000).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
IMPERIAL — (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $12,800).
"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S — (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days 2nd week. Gross: $12,700. (Average: $11,200).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
SHEA'S — (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $14,300. (Average: $12,800).
"Princess O'Rourke" (WB)
"Timber Queen" (Para.)
TIVOLI — (1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days; moveover. Gross: $4,400. (Average: $4,400).
"Phantom Lady" (Univ.)
"Sing A Jingle" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,800. (Average: $9,800.

'Shrine' Release Set

"Shrine of Victory" has been added to 20th-Fox's April block of releases, it has been announced by William J. Kupper, general sales manager. A Casanave-Artlee production, the picture was made in London by Michael Balcon at Ealing studios from a film smuggled out of France.

'Phantom Lady' and Show $8,600 Over

CLEVELAND, March 22.—"Standing Room Only," with a big $21,000 at Loew's State, and "Phantom Lady," on the RKO Palace screen, with a stage show headed by Bill Robinson hitting $34,000, were the weeks leaders. Weekend weather was stormy.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 23:

"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $8,500).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME — (3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $22,100).
"Frisco Kid" (WB)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,200).
"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,000).
"Phantom Lady" (Univ.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (50c-60c-85c-95c) 7 days. Stage: Bill Robinson, Helen Forrest, Borrah Minevitch Harmonica Rascals. Gross: $34,000. (Average: $25,400).
"Standing Room Only" (Para.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $19,000).
"Rationing" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $10,000).

'What a Woman' Hits $21,000 in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, March 22.—Snow and several holdovers cut into St. Louis receipts this week. "What a Woman" at Loew's State looks like the best of the week; it is expected to hit $21,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 22:

"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,163) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $18,900).
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
"The Sultan's Daughter" (Mono.)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,900).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
AMBASSADOR—(3,154) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,700).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
"Timber Queen" (Para.)
FOX—(5,038) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $18,700).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,100).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,100).
"Destination Tokyo" (WB)
"She's for Me" (Univ.)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,200).

'Lodger' Heads for $11,100 in Omaha

OMAHA, March 22.—"The Lodger" soared to $11,100 at the Orpheum, which passed up its usual stage show. In its second week, "Standing Room Only," plus "Marines at Tarawa," grossed $9,300 at the Omaha.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 22-23:

"Around the World" (RKO)
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
BRANDEIS — (1,200) (40c-55c) 6 days. Gross: $8,100. (Average: $6,500).
"Standing Room Only" (Para.)
"Marines at Tarawa" (Univ.)
OMAHA — (2,000) (40c-55c) 6 days, 2nd week, moveover from Paramount. Gross: $9,300. (Average: $7,900).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
ORPHEUM — (3,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $11,100. (Average: $10,900).

'Hitler Gang' Trade Showings Cancelled

Trade showings of Paramount's "The Hitler Gang," scheduled nationally for tomorrow, were cancelled by the company last night following a decision to withdraw the picture from Paramount's fourth release block to provide additional time for planning special treatment for the picture. It will probably be included in Paramount's fifth block, the company said.

'Higher' and Show Get Tall $21,500

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Despite uniformly good weather business was just average. The top grosser is "Higher and Higher" which should do an estimated $21,500 for the week at Warner's Earle. "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" should take approximately $22,000 at Loew's Capitol.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 23 are:

"The Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
LOEW'S CAPITOL—(3,434) (28c-39c-44c-66c) 7 days. On stage: Mary Raye and Naldi. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
LOEW'S COLUMBIA—(1,234) (30c-50c) 7 days. 3rd downtown week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,200).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
WARNER'S EARLE—(2,210) (30c-40c-50c-75c-90c) 7 days. On stage: Dave Appolon; Jerry Lewis. Gross: $21,500. (Average: $19,700).
"Gung Ho!" (Univ.)
RKO—KEITH'S — (1,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $13,600).
"In Our Time" (WB)
WARNER'S METROPOLITAN — (1,600) (30c-44c) 7 days, 3rd downtown week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,200).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S PALACE (2,242) (28c-55c) 7 days. 3rd downtown week. Gross: $14,000 (Average: $19,000).

'None Shall Escape,' Show Get $18,500

BALTIMORE, March 22. — Holdovers and a weekend of snow and rain kept business down. "None Shall Escape" led, aided by a stage show at the Hippodrome, drawing $18,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 23:

"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 56c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $16,000).
"The Uninvited" (Para)
KEITH'S — (2,406) (30c-35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $13,900).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (83c-$1.10) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,300).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek (Para.)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-50c-55c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $16,900).
"Hey, Rookie" (Col.)
MAYFAIR — (1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,400).
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.)
MARYLAND — (1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $7,500).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
HIPPODROME — (2,205) (28c-30c-45c-55c-66c) 7 days. Stage Show: Edith Fellows, Bob Hopkins, Winik & Mae, Mr. Ballentine, Lowe, Hite & Stanley. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $17,500).

Woods to Republic

CHICAGO, March 22. — Madeline Woods, formerly in charge of the advertising department of Essaness Theatres here, has been appointed publicity representative for Republic's local office.

Pittsburgh Gives $10,000 to 'Women'

PITTSBURGH, March 22.—A bad snowstorm sharply reduced receipts. Only theatre going above average was the Fulton, featuring "Women in Bondage," for an expected $10,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 21-24:

"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
FULTON—(1,700) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,100).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $10,100).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
PENN—(3,400) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $19,800).
"Song of Russia" (M-G-M)
RITZ—(1,100) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Penn. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $2,700).
"Swing Out the Blues" (Col.)
"Two-Man Submarine" (Col.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,400).
"Standing Room Only" (Para.)
STANLEY—(3,800) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average, with stage show: $20,900).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
WARNER—(2,000) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Stanley. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,500).

'Desert Song' Gets A Lilting $16,000

KANSAS CITY, March 22.—"The Desert Song," at the Newman, is leading first runs here with an approximate $16,000. "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," plus "Klondike Kate," is drawing about $14,000 at the Midland.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 21-23:

"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000).
"The Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
"Klondike Kate" (Col.)
MIDLAND — (3,600) (35c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $14,000).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
NEWMAN — (1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Rookies in Burma" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
"The Sultan's Daughter" (Mono.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,400).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,600).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $1,400. (Average: $1,600).

'Bernadette' Takes Terrific $25,000

MILWAUKEE, March 22.—Advanced prices for "The Song of Bernadette" at the Palace will bring $25,000 this week. "Passage to Marseille" at the Warner is second with $16,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 24:

"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
WISCONSIN—(3,200) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $13,000).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
PALACE—(2,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. (68c-$1.10) .Gross: $25,000. (Average: $9,500).
"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
"Swing Fever" (M-G-M)
STRAND—(1,400) (40c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $4,000).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
"My Best Gal" (Rep.)
WARNER—(2,400) (44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $14,000).
"Trail of the Lonesome Pine" (Para.)
"Hot Rhythm" (Mono.)
ALHAMBRA—(1,900) (44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,000).
"Action in Arabia" (RKO)
RIVERSIDE—(2,700) (44c-50c-75c) 7 days, plus Tommy Tucker and his orchestra and Virginia Weidler on stage. Gross: $15,750. (Average: $14,000).

Setting the Public Straight on Motion Picture Industry's Contribution to Overseas Morale:



Publishers of True Confessions, Movie Story and Motion Picture take large advertising space Coast-to-Coast in 19 Big City Newspapers and Trade Magazines, To Reveal How Armed Forces Abroad See New Hollywood Productions—Often Ahead of Broadway

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A Message To You About Your Boy Overseas:

In thinking about him, you wonder what movies he sees. Does he see only "old pictures?" The ones you saw together before Pearl Harbor? We can now tell you: No matter where he is, he is seeing the same pictures you see at your local theatre—occasionally even a world premiere. The Army's overseas Motion Picture Service, which chooses the films from all Hollywood's products, sees to that. So relax. Your boy overseas is getting the best of the movie bill of fare, and probably sees more pictures than you.

FACTS ABOUT HIS MORALE:

- 630,000 overseas men in uniform see latest Hollywood movies each night, admission free!
- Example: On Oct. 1, 1943, 1269 shows were presented in Army camps around the globe, 62 on Guadalcanal alone.
- Movies were shown on Bougainville 7 days after the beachhead.
- The 10,000th free film of the picture industry's gift to the War Department was delivered to Lt. General Somervell February 1944.
- Of the original 1000 films rented by the Army as an emergency measure just after Pearl Harbor, 300 are still in circulation abroad—commanding officers insist the boys want to keep them.
- Surveys prove mail and movies the 2 leading morale-builders. When Americans move into former Axis areas, available pictures are carried in and shown as soon as possible, pending arrival of latest Hollywood releases.

P.S. You see, he's well taken care of. In all probability, the new picture you saw last night is one he is seeing too. There is a war on, and global distribution isn't always perfect. The motion picture industry turns the films over to the Army in New York and from there they are rushed to your boy—wherever he is!



What Happened Here The Night of October 1, 1943?

On this hot black night, 62 movie shows were presented on Guadalcanal alone. And 7 days after the beachhead on Bougainville was made, the men who took those bloody beaches saw a recent Hollywood production.

THE above advertising, to tell the public what the Motion Picture Industry and the Army Overseas Motion Picture Service are doing "behind the scenes," is appearing during March in the following publications:

Boston Globe, N. Y. Times, N. Y. Herald Tribune, Wall Street Journal, St. Louis Globe Democrat, San Francisco Chronicle, Cincinnati Inquirer, Washington D. C. Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, Los Angeles Examiner, Chicago Sun, Chicago Daily News, Printers' Ink, Advertising and Selling, Advertising Age, Tide, Sales Management, Western Advertising, The Advertiser.

FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Paramount Building, N. Y.

True Confessions, Motion Picture, Movie Story, Life Story, Mechanix Illustrated, Fawcett Magazine Comics, True, Startling Detective.

WPB, Army, Navy Seek Deferment of Raw Film Experts

(Continued from page 1)

highly concentrated character of the raw stock industry and the special requirements of its skilled workers.

WMC officials with whom the matter has been discussed are said to be convinced of the peculiar role played by the raw stock industry in the war program, but without any definite data on which they can base a program which will provide for the withdrawal of deferred men as rapidly as possible without interfering with essential production.

Officials here concerned with the problem were confident today that a satisfactory solution would be worked out, probably through the development of accelerated replacement schedules which would give time to train older men and bring more women into the plants.

So far as could be ascertained, the Hollywood studios will not be unduly handicapped by the loss of men in the 18-26 bracket. It was explained that a great majority of the most important workers are in the higher age groups and that it is expected any losses which may be experienced may be offset by some form of "doubling up." It is chiefly in the continuous process industries that the Selective Service policy will be most severely felt, it was said.

Red Cross Collections at 14,764 Houses Start Today

(Continued from page 1)

chairmen, together with 31 WAC drive public relations directors have built the industry's campaign with the cooperation of local Red Cross chapters. All major companies assigned each of their film salesman a minimum of ten towns to obtain a pledge from every house. Committees were set up to cover every single individual associated with the industry or deriving a substantial part of his income from it. Accessories were preppared by National Screen, and a 12-page press book was prepared under the supervision of Harry Goldberg, drive campaign manager, and Charles A. Smakwitz, publicity director.

The drive slogan is: "Collections at Every Performance—Every Day."

Dallas Employes Give $29,772 to Red Cross

DALLAS, March 22.—A check for $29,772 was given yesterday to J. M. Moroney, Dallas County Red Cross chairman, by Don Douglas, chairman of the film industry's committee for collections among employes, at a luncheon in Variety Club headquarters here.

Others attending were R. I. Payne, corporate gifts chairman; Don Dixon, independent theatres; Sol Sachs, exchanges; Paul Scott and John Adams of Interstate, and W. F. Allen of Allied. Chairman Douglas handled collections from Robb and Rowley, the Griffith theatres, Jefferson Amusement Co., and the Phil Isley circuit.

300 Iowa Houses Pledge for Drive

DES MOINES, March 22.—Pledges from 300 of the 400 theatres in this area have already been turned in, according to Dale McFarland, in charge of publicity for the War Activities Committee here.

The same plan used in Fourth War Loan promotion has been installed, with each film salesman responsible for the contacting of theatres in his territory.

Buffalo Benefit Nets $4,000 for R. C.

BUFFALO, March 22.—Some $4,000 was netted for the Red Cross at a midnight benefit held in Shea's Buffalo Theatre here last week. This is the local film industry's first contribution to the 1944 campaign.

Appearing in a stage show were the Mills Brothers and Billy Keaton, among others, and acts from local night clubs and radio stations.

Predicts New Orleans Will Top 1943 Record

NEW ORLEANS, March 22.—"The New Orleans area in the 1944 Red Cross campaign will top its record in 1943," declared E. V. Richards, exhibitor area chairman for the Southeastern district, following a trip around the territory.

Richards said 550 theatres have been pledged for general theatre solicitations between March 23 and 29.

Northern N. J. First

Northern New Jersey was the first region to report 100 per cent pledged to the industry's Red Cross drive, the WAC reports here. Harry Lowenstein and Don Jacocks, Newark co-chairmen, have received 250 pledges, nine more than National Screen's tabulation of 241 possibilities for the area.

TRADE SHOWING POSTPONED

Paramount's

The Hitler Gang

Will NOT Be Trade-Shown March 24th As Previously Announced

Because of the unusual nature and the exceptional qualities of this picture, the release date has been postponed and

A NEW TRADE SCREENING DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER

Canada Eases Cost Limits on Repairs

TORONTO, March 22.—Canadian exhibitors in many sections are making much-needed repairs with relaxation of cost limits by the government for alterations. In addition, exhibitors are being treated more liberally in applications to the controller of construction.

Consequently, many important exterior and interior repairs and renovations to plumbing, washrooms, fixtures, new walls, carpeting, etc., will be made. Smaller houses are also surveying their premises in order to institute repairs which will mount in cost if not made now.

'Dwarfs' to Open April 4

Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," being reissued by RKO, will open here at the Manhattan Theatre on April 4. The film will open in more than 100 theatres throughout the country on the same date.

6% Population Drop In Film-Age Group

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The civilian population of the United States has declined over three percent since April 1, 1940, it was reported tonight by the Census Bureau in a review of population shifts in the past four years.

In actual figures, there are some 4,000,000 fewer civilians in the country today than there were in 1940, due to the excess of inductions into the armed forces over the natural increase, but Bureau officials placed the loss in theatre audiences at more than double that figure, since inductions and deaths are largely in the mature groups, offset in part only by birth, so that there is, today, a larger percentage of very young children than ever before in the history of the country.

A further factor complicating the evaluation of the effect of the change in population is the nation-wide shifting of workers, the Bureau report showed. Of the 3,089 counties of the country, 469 showed an actual increase in population of nearly 5,000,000 but the other 2,620 showed a loss of nearly 9,000,000. In 152 counties with a 1940 population of 8,788,000 people, the increase was 15 percent or more, adding 2,703,000, but in 1,178 counties with a 1940 population of 19,084,000 a decline of 15 percent or more made for a loss of 3,898,000.

Because of the migration to war centers, no recent computation of population by ages has been possible, but census officials estimate that the loss in theatre audience is the total of deaths and inductions less the number of persons reaching film-going age, for the country as a whole, but modified for individual communities by the extent of the immigration or emigration which has occurred during the past four years.

Films Up to Date in New Guinea: Wayne

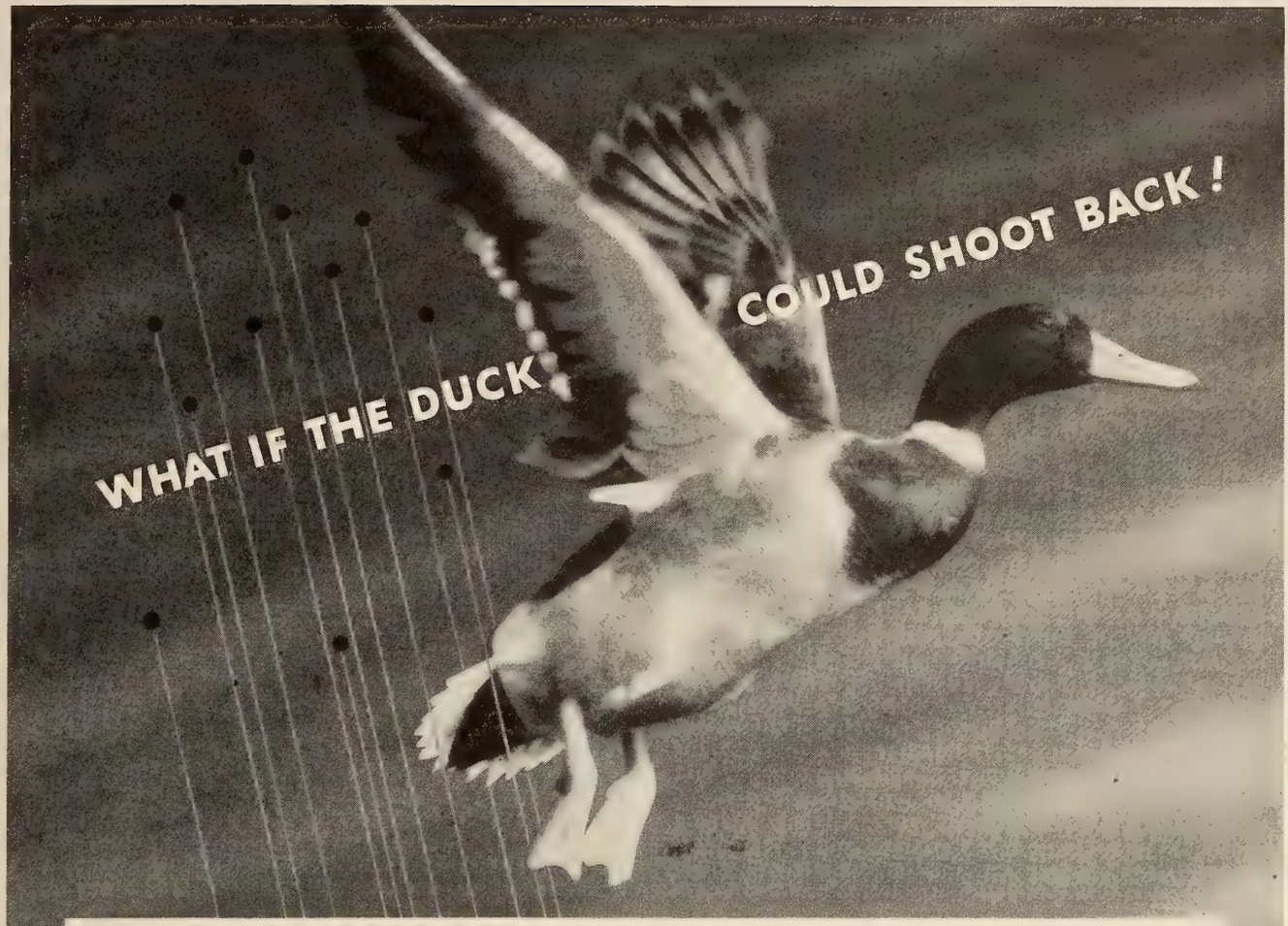
Back from a three-month USO Camp Shows tour of Pacific bases and battle lines from Brisbane to New Britain, John Wayne reported at a press conference here this week that the Army is now doing "a great job of getting the industry's gift of new films to the troops in forward areas."

"Up in the forward lines on New Guinea, I found films that were just being released when I left Hollywood," he added.

Latest Report on Films' Importance to Troops

Films, with mail and manual labor, comprise the whole lives of our fighting men stationed in the isolated outposts of the world. This is the report brought back by Marsha Hunt after completing a 22-day, 12,000-mile trip to American troops in Alaska and Canada. Together with Kay Francis, Reginald Gardiner and film producer Harry Sherman's daughter, Teddi, and USO-Camp Shows performers, Miss Hunt played 24 shows. The places visited were so secret that the artists still do not know where they were, except that they saw plenty of Eskimos, igloos and dog sleds.

Miss Hunt said, "Audiences ranged from 70 to several thousands. Everywhere we went they had films, and the boys were seeing pictures that had not played Hollywood."



Ciné-Kodak Film and Magazine help take the "guess" out of aerial gunnery and bring our flyers back alive

FROM THE ARMY AIR FORCES CATALOG ON AIRCRAFT CAMERAS:

"The gun camera, for recording results obtained in aerial gunnery training or for producing visual records of actual air combat, is actually a ruggedly constructed motion-picture camera wired into the fire control circuit of the aircraft.

"The percentage of improvement noted in actual combat gunnery due to the use of these gun cameras is amazingly high. That this training produces superior results in combat is a tribute to those responsible for the perfection of both the training program and the training equipment."



IF the hunter doesn't get his duck what's the difference? But if the duck could shoot back . . .

In the life of every one of our young flyers comes that first terrific moment. And in that first fight, our flyer overcomes his greatest hazard. If he gets his "duck"...

When Ciné-Kodak Magazine, with its 3-second loading, was invented, nobody ever expected it to help teach our pilots to shoot.

Kodak assisted in adapting it. The gun camera, which employs it, uses the same Ciné-Kodak Film in the familiar magazines that you use. It shows our fighter pilot in training how he's shooting . . . why he missed. His training continues until he doesn't miss any more. He goes into that first fight with some of the cool, calculating skill that means "veteran."

When equipped with the gun camera, he comes back to his home field or flight deck with the visual record of actual air combat —evidence that he is on his way toward being an ace.

REMEMBER THE "FLYING TIGERS"?—how that single squadron of crack Army, Navy, and Marine volunteers in China, desperately short of spare parts and fuel for their patched-up, obsolete planes, piled up the incredible total of 497 Jap planes—a ratio of 34 to 1? Theirs was a stern example for us at home. BUY MORE WAR BONDS.

Serving human progress through photography

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Short Subject Reviews

"South American Front—1944"

(March of Time—20th-Fox)

A timely and vital topic of utmost interest to North Americans is the South American "problem"—which receives excellent treatment in MOT's latest release, "South American Front—1944." Enlightening, though a bit sketchy in parts, the film takes in, first, the Argentine Fascist regime, and then, in contrast, Brazil and her tremendous contribution to the cause of freedom. An all-over view of Brazil's industry, agriculture, manufacturing and natural resources, is presented, as it is utilized for the Allies as well as that nation's strides in educational, health and transportation improvements. Running time, 18 mins.

"News Front"

(RKO-Pathe)

The story of news correspondents on the battle fronts is impressively told in the latest "This Is America" release. Dedicated to the 304 war correspondents now in the field, 16 of whom have lost their lives, "News Front" is fitting tribute. The film shows how the reporters obtain and transmit stories to Associated and United Press, International News Service and to newsreel and broadcasting companies. Larry O'Reilly has done a commendable job of direction and photography. Dwight Weist's commentary is excellent. Frederic Ullman, Jr., produced. Running time, 16½ mins.

$7,500,000 in 'U' Debentures Today

(Continued from page 1)

eliminate all existing Universal bank loans and to retire approximately $2,500,000 of five per cent secured bank debentures presently outstanding. The new debentures are unsecured and impose no restrictions on the company's making of new loans, which is unusual in banking circles.

Universal had bank credits in the amount of $5,375,000, secured by first mortgages on "U" studio real estate and studio equipment and by a first lien on 58 released productions having a total residual value of $6,659,202, 11 features completed but not released, at a total cost of $4,331,697, 16 productions in progress at a cost of $5,964,525, 97 released productions, the cost of which had been fully amortized prior to Oct. 30, 1943, and other properties.

Principal amounts of the new debentures are being underwritten by First Boston Corp., Blyth & Co., Kidder, Peabody, Chields & Co., Hemphill, Noyes, W. E. Hutton, G. H. Walker, W. C. Langley, Laurence M. Marks, Tucker, Anthony, A. G. Becker Co., Graham Parsons, Riter & Co., Dean Witter, and 11 other banking houses.

Lavin, Flachs to Mono.

CHICAGO, March 22.—Irving Mandel, Monogram franchise holder here, has appointed Matt Levin and Burt Flachs as salesmen for the Indiana-Kentucky and Northern Illinois area.

Television Offered to Majors by Telephone Co.

(Continued from page 1)

try. It was McHugh who approached Hays, in writing.

Recently announced plans of the A.T.&T-Bell System call for the construction of from six to seven thousand miles of telephone coaxial cable linking key cities of the United States in the next five or six years, which will make available facilities for television networks.

The Bell System will also consider, "on their merits," any requests for television facilities over routes where coaxial cable is not being planned during this period for telephone purposes, according to McHugh.

In addition to its program for the construction of coaxial cable, Bell is planning a commercial trial between New York and Boston of a radio relay system which will be suitable for the transmission of television as well as telephone messages, according to McHugh. The principle purpose of the trial is to determine, "by practical operation" in commercial service, the relative advantages and disadvantages of the new radio relay system for transmission of long distance messages and television programs compared with their transmission by other means, he revealed.

Directed radio beams at ultra high frequencies will operate simultaneously in both directions and these will be relayed by stations spaced at an average of 30 miles along the route.

McHugh's communication to Hays cited the fact that present construction plans "are necessarily subject to a good many qualifications because of present uncertainties." In seeking the cooperation of the film industry through Hays, McHugh stated, "If technical people in the film industry wish to go into the matter in more detail, our engineers will be of help."

"Television can be transmitted over ordinary telephone wires, within the same city, with the addition of suitable terminal and intermediate equipment or over special conductors provided for the purpose," McHugh said. Regarding the A.T. & T.'s motives in seeking cooperation with the film industry, McHugh wrote Hays, "As you know, American Telephone and Telegraph and its associated companies in the Bell System have been greatly interested in the development of television and we have been looking ahead to the possible future of this new industry after the war. Our interest is primarily the same as our interest in broadcasting, namely, in furnishing facilities for the transmission of television program material."

Already Hold Interests

Motion picture companies which already have existing television interests include Paramouut and 20th Century-Fox, the former having interests in DuMont and Scophony, the latter in Scophony. RKO was at one time linked with the RCA television interests and RKO's Ralph Austrian recently prepared a television survey for the RKO board. Twentieth-Fox was recently reported to be having discussions with General Electric television interests, and Warner Bros. with Philco interests. The board of Scophony met yesterday to consider methods whereby other film companies might acquire an interest in Scophony.

Carbon Method Aids Color Television

A new development in carbon technique by National Carbon is claimed to mark a definite advance toward color television available on full-size screens in motion picture theatres installing Scophony (Supersonic) television projectors, according to the Scophony Corp., of which Arthur Levey is president.

Foreign Managers Favor 'Global Plan'

(Continued from page 1)

date, possibly at the annual meeting of the MPPDA board of directors on Monday, or at some adjournment of that meeting.

The plan, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY of March 8, contemplates a full-time industry representative in all strategic world capitals. The so-called film "ambassadors" would supplement, rather than replace, whatever arrangements the State Department eventually may make for extending cooperation to the industry in foreign markets. The film ambassadors would be men competent to advise American embassies and consulates abroad on film matters when the occasion arose and also would be empowered to act and speak for the industry in much the same manner as does F. W. Allport, MPPDA managing director at London, it is reported.

One of the early appointments is expected to be for the Moscow post, and another more or less immediate possibility is one for China. Others would be made as world conditions permit and necessity requires, it was said.

Loew's Reports a Net of $2,796,861

(Continued from page 1)

erating profit was $7,449,332, compaper to 1942's $7,392,457, Bernstein reported. Reserve for contingencies was the same for the two periods: $1,000,000; while reserve set aside for depreciation amounted to $760,617 in 1943 as compared to $742,040 for the preceding year.

Loew's share of profits for the 12-week period, before Federal taxes was $5,688,715, against $5,650,417 for the comparable period of 1942. Reserve for Federal taxes was $2,891,854 in the 12 weeks of 1943, against $3,201,361 in 1942.

Cobb Estate to Wife

The will of Irvin S. Cobb, humorist and screen writer, who died here March 10, was admitted for probate in Surrogate's Court last weekend. Mrs. Laura Baker Cobb, the widow, receives all her husband's original manuscripts and five-sixths of the residuary estate. The author bequeathed his library to the Carnegie Public Library at Paducah, Ky., his birthplace.

No Film-Television Conflict: Trammell

LOS ANGELES, March 22.—"Television will not cut pictures out of business anymore than radio did, Niles Trammell, NBC president, said here today at the National Broadcasting Co. war clinic.

Trammell explained that television will operate in two phases: the theatre phase, covering current events, sports and news only—not features—and the home phase, in which NBC is interested, including live productions, news, special events and the televising of films.

"NBC doesn't expect that producers will turn over "A" films for telecasting," Trammell said, "but NBC does expect them to enter into contracts with our advertising agencies for production of special television films."

He added that television may not be able to get top name players at the start anymore than was possible when radio began.

No Monopoly Sought

"NBC does not seek a television monopoly," Trammell stated. "Exhibitors could have their own networks if they desired to replace the present film distribution system with television."

Trammell also reported that the War and Navy Departments have rented NBC the rights to use war film news releases at the same time as newsreels but that the network has agreed to withhold them until after theatre showings.

He added that NBC plans to film both national political conventions and fly the material to New York for telecasting.

John F. Royal, NBC television vice-president, said the company already has commitments from "certain producers" for telecasting many reels now in stock.

NBC and the Radio Corporation of America have spent $10,000,000 to date on experimental television operation and expect to spend the same amount in the next five years, with no return foreseen short of three years, Trammell said.

Capt. Howard Discharged

Capt. Hampton W. Howard, former officer-in-charge of the overseas motion picture service for the Army, has been given an honorable discharge after eight months in the European and Pacific war zones.

Howard, formerly with Paramount, was national director of the American Red Cross hospital motion picture service prior to his enlistment. He has returned to the industry as vice-president of Instructional Films, a subsidiary of Films, Inc.

Gallanter to Seattle

Ted Gallanter, M-G-M Chicago exploiteer, will be transferred to Seattle, where he will be in charge of the Washington and Oregon areas. Howard Herty, presently at the Seattle office, will go to Los Angeles. Changes are to take place on April 8.

'Holiday' at Victoria

"Knickerbocker Holiday," produced by Harry Joe Brown for Producers Corp. of America, and distributed by United Artists, is scheduled to open at the Victoria, Broadway, following UA's "Voice in the Wind," which is slated for a six-week run.

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 59 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1944 TEN CENTS

RKO to Close $9,500,000 Loan Today

Boston Bank Deal Saves Company $1,200,000

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

Contracts will be signed today between B. F. Keith Corp., RKO theatre subsidiary, and the First National Bank of Boston to refinance existing obligations by the sale of $9,500,000 of 12½ year 3¼ per cent Keith obligations, Malcolm Kingsberg, RKO vice-president and treasurer, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY last night.

Obligations which will be called in and paid today include a $5,500,000, 4½ per cent issue to the Equitable Life Insurance Co.; $810,000 to the New York Life Insurance Co.; and some $2,000,000 in various savings bank loans. Arrangements have also

(*Continued on page* 18)

Fox Gives Warning On Television Plan

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—William Fox reappeared on the industry scene suddenly today when he predicted that theatres would become garages if and when television, as envisioned by the National Broadcasting Co., catches hold nationally. He made the observation at a luncheon for studio executives and publicity heads given by Niles Trammell, NBC president.

While NBC's plans were envisioned in two phases at the company's "war

(*Continued on page* 18)

Set Permanent Film Exhibit in Chicago

Chicago, March 23.—A resolution to launch a national project to found a permanent exhibit for the film industry at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry will be introduced here April 4 by Mrs. Charles Holton, president of the Better Films Council, she revealed here to *Motion Picture Daily*.

Chicago circuit heads and distributors' representatives have indicated willingness to cooperate in getting industry cooperation.

Majors Preparing 100 Films for Free Europe

Major distributors here are preparing almost 100 films with foreign subtitles to follow in the wake of the invading armies for exhibition to the people of liberated Europe.

The films consist of the 40 films which were originally treated with super-imposed titles in 14 foreign languages by the majors at the request of the overseas film division of the Office of War Information, and at least 50 additional, approved by the OWI as suitable for exhibition to European people, *Motion Picture Herald* will say today.

Most films being selected, it is understood, will have a strong entertainment quality and will consist of many musicals and Technicolor "spectacles."

(*Continued on page* 18)

$4,650,751 U.S. Tax Drop

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Federal admission tax collections in February nose-dived $4,650,751, to $12,094,185 from $16,744,936 in January, but were still more than $900,000 above collections in February, 1943, it was reported here today by the U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau. The February total represents receipts accruing to the Government in that month, but actually they are the January receipts accruing to theatres, and reflect the usual post-holiday theatre slump.

January's $16,744,936 collections,

(*Continued on page* 18)

20th-Hoyt's Get 26 in Australia

Twenty-six additional outlets for 20th Century-Fox product in New South Wales are provided by the acquisition of a controlling interest in Western Suburbs Cinemas, Ltd., and its subsidiaries, by Hoyt's Theatres, Ltd., National Theatres Corp. disclosed here yesterday, based on advices received in Los Angeles by Charles Skouras, president of National, from Ernst Turnbull, managing director of Hoyt's in Sydney, Australia.

National Theatres, wholly-owned subsidiary of 20th-Fox, has a substantial interest in Hoyt's, important circuit in the Australian and surrounding countries.

About 20 of the new acquisitions are fee-owned, and all are located in New South Wales.

Ten Years Without Doubles for 160 Interstate Houses

By FAIRFAX NISBET

DALLAS, March 23.—The Karl Hoblitzelle-R. J. O'Donnell Interstate circuit of 160 theatres in the Southwest is rounding out ten years on a steady diet of single features with "hand-picked" short subjects, a unique operation.

Interstate's short subject department, headed by Besa Short, is observing its 10th anniversary this week. O'Donnell, vice-president and general manager of Interstate inaugurated the shorts department to counteract double-features by balancing feature programs with appropriate short subjects, and put Mrs. Short in charge.

(*Continued on page* 18)

Vincent Heads New Film Charity Fund

Walter W. Vincent of the Wilmer and Vincent Circuit has been elected president of the new Motion Picture Charity Fund, which recently received a New York State charter. Other officers chosen were Clinton Combes of the Paramount legal department, secretary, and Edmund C. Grainger, president of Feiber and Shea circuit, treasurer. Among the directors named are Vincent Grainger, Si Fabian, Charles C. Moskowitz, Leslie Thompson, A. H. Blank, John Harris and Joseph Bernhard.



Walter Vincent

The organization was formed to look after charities within the industry that are not already covered by existing groups. Administration of the Will Rogers Memorial at Saranac Lake will be one of its many functions.

The first official meeting of the board will be held Friday afternoon in the Paramount Building.

Unions, Guilds Must Bare All Dollar Deals

Revenue Act Now Forces Financial Report

The new Federal tax law, effective April 1, requiring unions and guilds in the film industry, and in all other fields, to file annual statements with the Treasury Department on all incomes and disbursements, each May 15, will lay bare every conceivable financial operation of unions for the first time, it was learned here recently.

The disclosures may not be made public directly, but could be disseminated openly by any Congressional committee after requisitioning, for use in committee hearings, investigations, or other related procedures.

The Treasury's Internal Revenue Bureau here has informed MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the unions will

(*Continued on page* 17)

Myron Selznick Is Dead; Agent Was 45

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—Myron Selznick, 45, talent manager, died this morning of portal thrombosis at Santa Monica Hospital, after an illness of only a few days.

Mrs. Florence A. Selznick, his mother; his brother, David O. Selznick; another brother, Howard, and his 14-year old daughter survive.

Born in Pittsburgh, Myron Selznick

(*Continued on page* 18)

Treasury Raises Its 5th War Loan Quota

Washington, March 23.—The Treasury Department has boosted the quota for the Fifth War Loan Drive to $16,000,000,000, it was disclosed here today by Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

Morgenthau stated that the last drive rang up a total of $16,730,000,000, some $2,730,000,000 "over the top." The Secretary added that complete details of the fifth campaign will be ready next week. The campaign will start in late May or early June.

WAC Meeting Today To Hear Gen. Ulio

Major General J. A. Ulio of the Adjutant General's office will speak here today at the annual meeting of the War Activities Committee in the Hotel Astor. He will stress the importance of adding to the rolls of the Women's Army Corps.

Arthur L. Mayer, WAC treasurer, will submit a report, Herman Gluckman will report on the distribution of war information films, and Francis S. Harmon, WAC coordinator, will discuss WAC's future plans.

The luncheon session will be preceded at 10 a. m. by the annual meeting of the WAC theatres division executive committee which includes Si H. Fabian, chairman; Ed Kuykendall, Joseph Bernhard, Harry Brandt, Dan Michalove, Robert O'Donnell, E. V. Richards, Robert Wilby and Nathan Yamins.

WAC Committee Joins

This group will be joined at luncheon by members of the WAC coordinating committee. This full committee includes: George J. Schaefer, chairman; treasurer Mayer; coordinator Harmon, who is also executive vice-chairman; Walton C. Ament, newsreel division; Oscar A. Doob, public relations; Si Fabian, Mary C. McCall, Jr., Hollywood division; Martin Quigley, trade press; Philip Reisman, foreign managers; Ned E. Depinet, distributors; Kenneth Thompson, Hollywood Victory Committee; Adolph Zukor, drives division; and Wilby, Kuykendall, Yamins, Edward Arnold, Barney Balaban, Nate J. Blumberg, Joseph H. Hazen, Abe Lastfogel, Abram F. Myers, Robert H. Poole, Herman Robbins, Nicholas M. Schenck, Spyros P. Skouras and Walter Vincent.

The agenda includes election of officers of the theatres division.

Para. Officials to Coast Meet Today

Leonard Goldenson, Paramount vice-president and theatre head, accompanied by a group of other company executives, will leave here today for the Coast to attend a meeting of Paramount partners at Arrowhead Springs, Cal., starting Wednesday. Present and postwar exhibition problems and new product potentialities are scheduled to be discussed.

Accompanying Goldenson from here will be Leon Netter and Sam Dembow, home office executives, R. J. O'Donnell and R. B. Wilby. Making the trip direct from their respective offices will be Sam Pinanski, Boston; E. V. Richards, New Orleans; John Balaban, Chicago; A. H. Blank, Des Moines, and Karl Hoblitzelle, Dallas.

Exhibitors Attend 'Boys'

Circuit and independent exhibitors in the Metropolitan area attended the trade showing of Universal's Charles K. Feldman production of "Follow the Boys" at the Normandie Theatre here yesterday. The showing was the first held; other exchanges cities will see the picture on April 3.

Personal Mention

ADOLPH ZUKOR, chairman of the board of Paramount, and MRS. ZUKOR, have returned from Hollywood.

•

LOU FORMATO, M-G-M Philadelphia sales manager, and JACK MCNEIL, formerly of the Warner circuit's publicity department there, have been accepted by the Army; and RAY THOMPSON, assistant manager of Warner's Boyd, has gone into the Navy.

•

DOUGLAS NETTER, son of LEON NETTER, Paramount theatre department executive, has been promoted to lieutenant (j. g.).

•

LUIS SANCHEZ AMAGO, manager of Orbe Films, Havana, distributor for Monogram in Cuba, has arrived in New York.

•

WILLIAM W. PETERSON, former Hillman mid-western distribution representative, is now a captain in the U. S. Army Ground Forces.

•

GEORGE GAMMEL of the Gammel Theatres, Buffalo, and MRS. GAMMEL have returned from a two months' stay in Florida.

•

DARRYL F. ZANUCK, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of production, is expected from Hollywood the second week of April.

•

GEORGE A. SMITH, Paramount Western division manager, is on a two-week tour of exchanges.

•

ANDREW GIBSON, manager of Buffalo's Erlanger Theatre, has recovered from an illness.

•

HENDERSON M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, is in Washington today on company business.

•

H. M. BESSEY, Altec vice-president, has returned from a trip to Ohio.

•

GEORGE CUKOR, director, is due from the Coast in about a week.

MAURICE BERGMAN, Universal Eastern advertising and publicity manager, is scheduled to return this weekend from a two weeks' vacation at Atlantic City.

•

PVT. JOHN D. DONOGHUE, former theatre editor of the *Springfield News*, Springfield, Mass., has been assigned to the Army radio school in Jackson, N. C.

•

AL TESCHMACHER of National Screen Service, Buffalo, is back on the job after an illness of nearly a year.

•

HUGH OWEN, Paramount Eastern division sales manager, and WILLIAM ERBB, district manager, were in Buffalo this week.

•

STANLEY CHASE, assistant to OSCAR MORGAN, Paramount short subject sales manager, has been inducted into the Navy.

•

B. G. DE SYLVA, Paramount executive producer, has been made an honorary citizen of Oklahoma by Gov. ROBERT S. KERR.

•

WILLIAM GUNZLEMAN, 20th Century-Fox Buffalo auditor, is now in Detroit.

•

GEORGE LANDERS, manager of E. M. Loew's Hartford, Hartford, Conn., is in Boston on business.

•

GEORGE ETTINGER, Columbia exploitation representative, was in Hartford this week.

•

JOE PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, and MRS. PASTERNAK will return to the Coast on Monday.

•

ARNOLD PRESSBURGER, United Artists producer, will return to the Coast March 28.

•

JACOB WILK, Warner's Eastern story editor, returned yesterday from Boston.

Proposals Due from Sound Technicians

Discussions will be held today between the producers' representatives and IATSE officials on contract proposals which will be submitted for the IATSE Studio Sound Technicians, local No. 695, at the continuing conferences being held at the office here of Pat Casey, producer labor contact.

Arguments of the IATSE Studio Photographers, local No. 659, were heard yesterday at Casey's office on contract proposals for a new agreement to supplant the one that expired on Jan. 1.

To Televise Conventions

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—The Democratic and Republican national Presidential conventions in Chicago this Summer will be televised by National Broadcasting through the medium of motion pictures of the event, Niles Trammell, NBC president, disclosed here yesterday.

Rank Criticized on Gift to Parliament

LONDON, March 23.—J. Arthur Rank today was subjected to criticism by leftists within and outside of the House of Commons for his recent gift of a projector to Parliament. While not questioning Rank's motives, it was said the incident might lead other powerful industrialists to seek to curry favors of Parliament by making gifts.

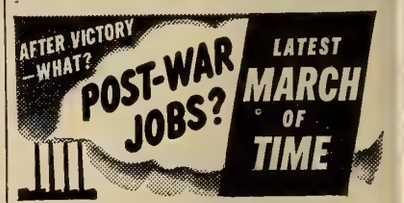
Ampa Nominating Committee Named

Ray Gallagher, Max Stein, Leon Bamberger, Phil Williams, Hortense Schorr, Grace Rosenfield and Charles Alicoate have been named to the nominating committee that will report on a new slate for the next administration of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers. Ampa met at the Hotel Edison here yesterday.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
DANNY KAYE
"UP IN ARMS"
Dinah Shore • Constance Dowling
In Technicolor Released thru RKO
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

Held Over 2nd Week



RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
NOW PLAYING
Maria Montez • Jon Hall
Turhan Bey
'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'

DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S
"The PURPLE HEART"
PLUS ON STAGE—COUNT BASIE and ORCH.—CAROL BRUCE—ZERO MOSTEL
BUY MORE BONDS ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY 6-45
ON SCREEN
1st N. Y. Showing
RED SKELTON
The Brooklyn Dodgers
'WHISTLING in BROOKLYN'
IN PERSON
WILL OSBORNE and ORCHESTRA
OTHER BIG ACTS

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous • Doors Open 9:30 am
Rivoli B'way & 49th St.

100 at Allied Dinner

More than 100 persons, including exhibitors and representatives from exchanges, home offices and theatre supply dealers, attended the Allied of New Jersey annual Spring "get-together" and beefsteak at Harry Hecht's Ritz Restaurant in Passaic Wednesday night.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

CLAUDIA
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

GANG'S ALL HERE
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

GUADALCANAL DIARY
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

WINTERTIME
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

HOLY MATRIMONY
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

THE LODGER
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

LIFEBOAT
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

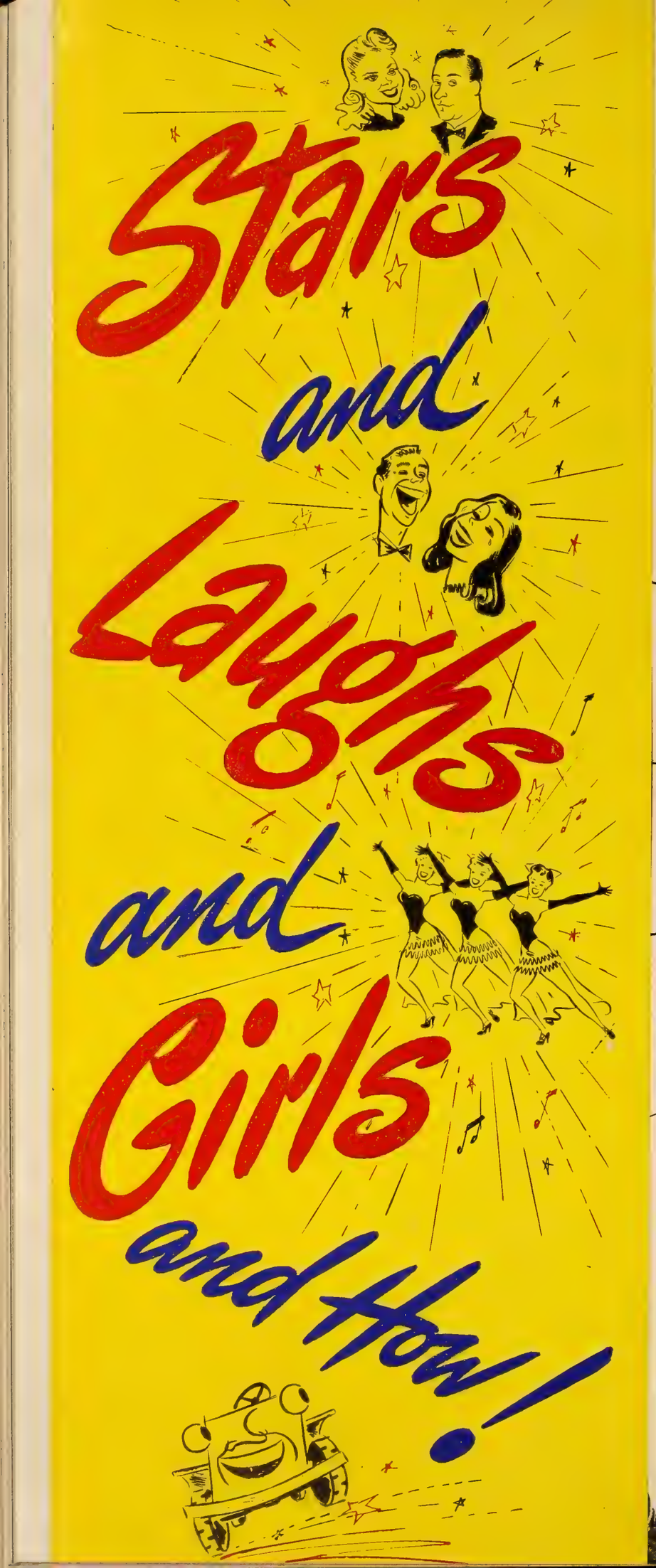
JANE EYRE
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

THE SULLIVANS
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
A 20th CENTURY-FOX HIT!

and Now





20th Century

FO

J/L

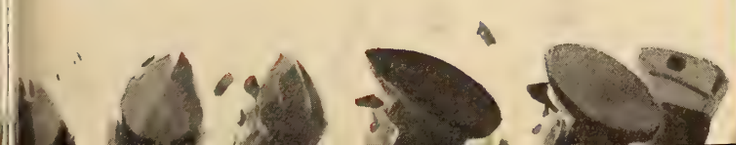
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Fox presents

UR LS a EP





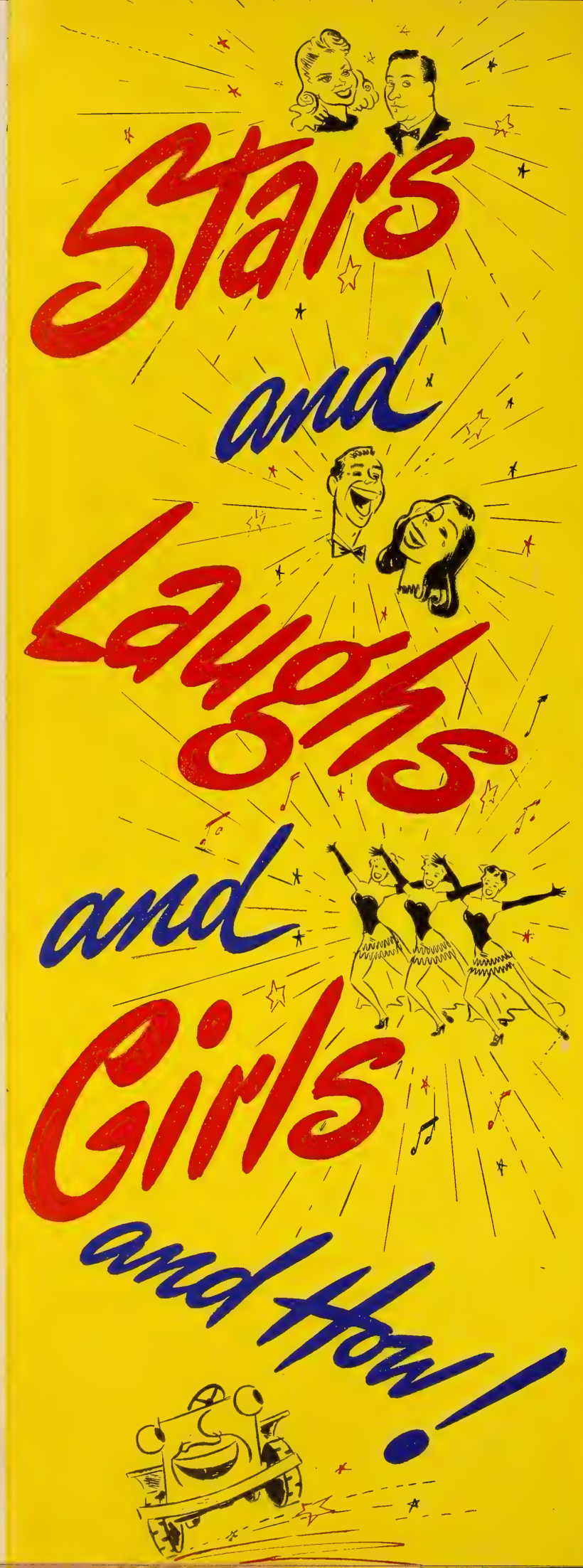


Music and Love and Adventure and More!









20th Century

FO

JA

in

JE

Fox presents

UR LS a EP







Music and Love and Adventure and More!







20th Century Fox presents

FOUR JILLS in a JEEP

Kay Francis

Carole Landis

Martha Raye

Mitzi Mayfair



Directed by WILLIAM A. SEITER

Produced by IRVING STARR



Music and Love and Adventure and More!



ALL JILLS!



1 JEEP!
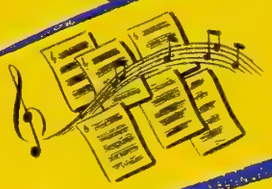


3 JOES!



THE # 1 BAND!

64 SONGS!



4 GUEST STARS!



1 SWELL STORY!



It all adds up to 20th Century-Fox...
the biggest figure in the industry
...with another BIG one!

Views Television as An Aid to Theatres

Theatre television is not to be overlooked in planning the future of television since it is an early post-war commercial possibility with box-office potentialities for larger theatre audiences, bringing them telecasts of special events while they are taking place, Allen B. DuMont, president of DuMont Television, yesterday told 500 members of the American Marketing Association and their guests at a luncheon at the Murray Hill Hotel.

DuMont cited the fact that the nine television stations now in operation in this country are capable of reaching 35 per cent of the population. He sees the best telecasting hours as those between seven and 11 P.M.

Split Over Films For Television

The possibility of televised films forming the backbone of television programs is seen from the remarks of Wyllis Cooper, director of program development of National Broadcasting at a meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers at the Hotel Pennsylvania here Wednesday night.

Worthington C. Miner, manager of Columbia Broadcasting television, took the opposite view, citing that films cannot be so employed for television schedules. Basic difficulty facing the film companies, according to Miner, is the enormous scope in entertainment forms which they would suddenly be asked to cover. Cooper feels that the objection to specially made films for television because of cost and time is minimized in view of the fact that economies and shortcuts would evolve an inexpensive and practicable motion picture technique for sight-and-sound medium.

Downey Calls for Postwar Film Aid

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The importance of developing a proper industrial policy for the postwar era so that the American motion picture industry "can operate most widely and successfully both here and abroad" was impressed upon the Senate yesterday by Senator Sheridan Downey of California.

Downey placed in the record the statement made by Harold Hopper last month upon his resignation as chief of the motion picture section of the War Production Board, characterizing as "most valuable" Hopper's suggestion that the film industry take steps to present its case adequately when the Allied peace conference considers the industrial problems involved in the rebuilding of a war-torn world.

Reception for De Mille

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Cecil B. DeMille will be guest of honor at dinner at the Netherlands Embassy on Saturday, April 1, preceding a preview of the Paramount-DeMille "Story of Dr. Wassell," to be held that evening in Constitution Hall. Included in the 200 invited to the Embassy will be trade press representatives and magazine and newspaper reporters. The preview is being sponsored by the Navy for the benefit of the Navy League's Red Cross War Fund.

Review

"Follow the Boys"

(Universal)

THERE is an abundance of entertainment and stellar names galore in Charles K. Feldman's production, "Follow the Boys." In fact, it is overweighted with individual acts and star appearances to such an extent that its story, an unpretentious one at best, eventually is lost in the maze of camp show entertainment which is poured so generously onto the screen, but is recovered to supply a tragic ending.

Universal is describing the production as "show business's tribute to show business at war." The picture is concerned principally with the Hollywood Victory Committee's cooperation with USO Camp Shows. It reproduces a wide variety of entertainment furnished American service men at camps and in hospitals and over the radio in this country and abroad. In so doing, it does constitute a fine, an impressive tribute to the many entertainers who have contributed and are contributing their talents to the service men of the nation.

The story is concerned with the romance of George Raft, as a former vaudevillian, who turns to Hollywood and there wins Vera Zorina, in the role of an established star, and as her dancing partner, becomes a star himself. They are married and, having been rejected for service when war breaks out, Raft devotes himself to camp show entertainment projects, to the neglect of his wife. Hurt by his apparent indifference, she refuses to tell him she is about to become a mother. He leaves for the South Pacific and is killed when the ship is torpedoed by a Jap submarine. Zorina then takes up the camp show work herself.

The body of the picture is a succession of variety acts, radio programs, camp shows, presented for service men. One of the most moving of these is an appearance at a hospital in England of Jeanette MacDonald, with a song for the wounded there. Among the lightest are Marlene Dietrich's and Orson Welles' appearances in the latter's "magic" show, and W. C. Fields in an act with a pocket billiard table as his foil. Good turns are contributed by Donald O'Connor and Peggy Ryan, by Dinah Shore, the Andrews Sisters, Sophie Tucker, Carmen Amaya and Her Company, Leonard Gautie's Bricklayers and the Delta Rhythm Boys. Artur Rubinstein appears in a piano solo in a broadcast sequence.

Band music is contributed by Ted Lewis, Freddie Slack, Charlie Spivak and Louis Jordan and their orchestras. A Hollywood Victory Committee meeting offers a score more of stellar names and faces. Also, in the cast, are Grace McDonald, Charley Grapewin, Charles Butterworth, Regis Toomey, Martha O'Driscoll, Maxie Rosenbloom and Theodore Von Eltz. Obviously, there is no lack of exploitation, advertising and marquee material.

Eddie Sutherland directed, and Lou Breslow and Gertrude Purcell are credited with the original screenplay.

Running time, 122 minutes. "G."* Release, not set.

SHERWIN KANE

*"G" denotes general classification.

WB Bond Buyers Win $500 in Bonds

Ten buyers of war bonds in the Warner home office campaign for the recent Fourth War Loan were named as winners of an additional $50 bond apiece at a drawing held yesterday as part of a Red Cross rally in Warner club rooms.

Those who received the bonds, donated by the company, were: Ann Goebel, Axel Swenson, Sidney Rothenberg, Paul Richman, William Brown, Harvey Lasker, Raymond Hewlett, Loretta Morrison, Dorothy Greenberger and John Sena.

'Bluejackets' to See 'Navy Way' Tonight

CHICAGO, March 23.—Paramount's Pine-Thomas production, "The Navy Way," will have its world premiere tomorrow night before 100,000 servicemen at the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, where the picture was filmed. The first public showing will follow immediately at the Genessee Theatre in Waukegan. A contingent of Hollywood players will appear at both premieres.

Herman Sussman, 48, Operated 5 Theatres

Herman Sussman, 48, head of the H. Sussman Circuit, operating five theatres in Westchester and Putnam counties, N. Y., died Tuesday, while vacationing in Florida, it was learned here yesterday. Sussman had been in the industry some 23 years.

Burial services will be held in Pleasantville, N. Y., on Sunday at two P.M.

100-City Opening for 'Snow White' Reissue

The reissued "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" will open in more than 100 Nebraska and Iowa cities during the week beginning April 5.

S. Barret McCormick, RKO advertising-publicity director, aided by a field staff under exploitation chief Terry Turner, has organized a pre-opening campaign that will feature Vera Collins, winner of the recent "Snow White" contest in the Cincinnati area premiere; Pinto Colvig, the original voice of "Goofy," and Dick Mitchell, studio animator.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood March 23

GEORGE CUKOR has been assigned by Darryl F. Zanuck, 20th Century Fox vice-president in charge of production, to direct the film version of "Winged Victory."

•

W. C. Lewellen, who is assisting Robert M. Gillham, Paramount advertising-publicity director, on special exploitation, has left for Little Rock, Ark., to set plans for the April 26 premiere of "The Story of Dr. Wassell."

•

After finishing "Sweet and Low Down" for 20th-Fox, Benny Goodman will break up his band because of draft troubles. Five members were called last week. An Army camp tour is next on Goodman's personal schedule.

•

"First Woman Doctor," a P. J. Wolfson screenplay based on the life of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, has been announced by Columbia for immediate production; Charles Vidor directs.

•

Michael Curtiz has signed a new term contract with Warners and will direct, as his next assignment, "Roughly Speaking."

•

Cagney productions has bought "Only the Valiant," which will precede "Port Royal" on its schedule for United Artists.

UIE Cites Decree Sabotage Attempts

Charging reputed efforts by unnamed interests to sabotage the work of the Chicago early-February conference of independent exhibitors on the consent decree, the Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors of New York, representing some 65 local theatres, reaffirmed its confidence in the work of the conference, at a special luncheon-meeting here yesterday.

According to UIE, "efforts are being made to propagandize the industry to the effect that independent exhibitors were not in accord with the action of the Chicago conference and the report made to the Department of Justice by the committee of five selected at the conference."

The group also passed a resolution that henceforth UIE members will channel their collections for various industry war drives through their own organization rather than through the War Activities Committee, charging that their organization receives no recognition for such activities either through WAC or any other group.

A special committee was appointed by the UIE members to contact the American Legion and the Veterans' Administration in Washington to offer employment to any returning war veterans with a projectionist license.

J. C. Tyson Dies

James Colquitt Tyson, 56, former director of the chorus at the Roxy Theatre here, died recently at Presbyterian Hospital. Surviving are his widow and a daughter.

EVERYBODY IN SHOW BUSINESS WILL BE THERE!

Yesterday

at the Normandie Theatre . . . New York . . . a packed house cheered, cried, laughed and thrilled to the music, comedy, songs and drama of Universal's Charles K. Feldman Production . . . "FOLLOW THE BOYS" . . . occasion, the New York Trade Preview

Monday March 27th at the stroke of midnight

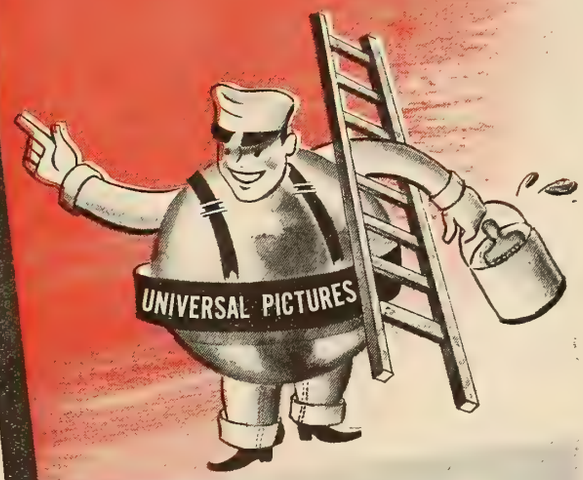
the walls of the Palace Theatre . . . sweetheart of all show business . . . will shake with sentiment and delight. For that night Universal pays tribute to Vaudeville with a special gala preview of the Chas. K. Feldman Production "FOLLOW THE BOYS"

. . . and on Monday April 3rd

there will be simultaneous Trade Previews in every Universal Exchange City of the Charles K. Feldman Production "FOLLOW THE BOYS"

Check your show time from this list and see why America is cheering "FOLLOW THE BOYS" . . . the biggest picture Universal ever gave you . . . "FOLLOW THE BOYS" . . . Show Business' Own Tribute to Show Business.

ALBANY, DELAWARE THEATRE, 2 P. M.
ATLANTA, RHODES THEATRE, 10:30 A. M.
BOSTON, ESQUIRE THEATRE, 2 P. M.
BUFFALO, SHEA'S NIAGARA THEATRE, 2 P. M.
CHARLOTTE, DILWORTH THEATRE, 11:30 A. M.
CHICAGO, ESQUIRE THEATRE, 10:30 A. M.
CINCINNATI, FOREST THEATRE, 2 P. M.
CLEVELAND, COLONY THEATRE, 2 P. M.
DALLAS, MELROSE THEATRE, 2 P. M.
DENVER, ALADDIN THEATRE, 10:30 A. M.
DES MOINES, INGERSOLL THEATRE, 2 P. M.
DETROIT, FISHER THEATRE, 10:30 A. M.
INDIANAPOLIS, KEITH THEATRE, 8:30 P. M.
KANSAS CITY, VOGUE THEATRE, 2 P. M.
LOS ANGELES, FOX BOULEVARD THEATRE, 2 P. M.
MEMPHIS, MEMPHIAN THEATRE, 2 P. M.
MILWAUKEE, COLONIAL THEATRE, 2 P. M.
MINNEAPOLIS, GRANADA THEATRE, 2:30 P. M.
NEW HAVEN, WHITNEY THEATRE, 11 A. M.
NEW ORLEANS, CIRCLE THEATRE, 11 A. M.
OKLAHOMA CITY, TOWER THEATRE, 11 A. M.
OMAHA, DUNDEE THEATRE, 2 P. M.
PHILADELPHIA, SHUBERT THEATRE, 2 P. M.
PITTSBURGH, WARNER'S SHADYSIDE THEATRE, 2 P. M.
PORTLAND, ORIENTAL THEATRE, 2 P. M.
ST. LOUIS, WEST END THEATRE, 11 A. M.
SALT LAKE CITY, STUDIO THEATRE, 10 A. M.
SAN FRANCISCO, METRO THEATRE, 2 P. M.
SEATTLE, EGYPTIAN THEATRE, 2 P. M.
WASHINGTON, CIRCLE THEATRE, 2 P. M.



Charles K. Feldman Presents
the story of the stars who

Follow the Boys

a Universal Picture

Starring
★ GEORGE RAFT
★ VERA ZORINA

Guest stars in the order of appearance:
★ JEANETTE MacDONALD
★ ORSON WELLES' Mercury Wonder Show
★ MARLENE DIETRICH
★ DINAH SHORE
★ DONALD O'CONNOR
★ PEGGY RYAN
★ W. C. FIELDS
★ The ANDREWS SISTERS
★ ARTUR RUBINSTEIN
★ CARMEN AMAYA and Her Company
★ SOPHIE TUCKER
★ DELTA RHYTHM BOYS
★ LEONARD GAUTIER'S BRICKLAYERS

These famous bands
★ TED LEWIS and His Band
★ FREDDIE SLACK and His Orchestra
★ CHARLIE SPIVAK and His Orchestra
★ LOUIS JORDAN and His Orchestra

with
GRACE McDONALD
CHARLES BUTTERWORTH
MARTHA O'DRISCOLL
CHARLEY GRAPEWIN
ELIZABETH PATTERSON
MAXIE ROSENBLOOM
REGIS TOOMEY

Original Screenplay by Lou Breslow and Gertrude Purcell
Directed by EDDIE SUTHERLAND
Produced by CHARLES K. FELDMAN
Associate Producer, ALBERT K. ROCKETT

NOTE—If you are an exhibitor and have not received a formal invitation please forgive—and come anyway. Your occupation is your admission card.

"RED CROSS DRIVE! COLLECT AT EVERY PERFORMANCE EVERY DAY—MARCH 28 THROUGH

$30,600 Over For 'Joe' in 4 L.A. Houses

Los Angeles, March 23.—With perfect weather business strengthened generally, "A Guy Named Joe" turning in the most impressive showing. In its quadruple opening at the Fox West Coast Carthay Circle, Chinese, Loew's State and Uptown, "Joe" got about $87,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 22:

"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,200).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,500).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.)
EGYPTIAN—(1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,500).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
FOUR STAR—(900) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,570).
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
"Hot Rhythm" (Mono.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,200).
"Up in Arms" (UA)
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $19,700).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $39,000. (Average: $24,100).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $14,900).
"Up in Arms" (UA)
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
PANTAGES—(2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $16,700).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $11,000).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $14,700. (Average: $20,300).
"The Lodger" (20th-Fox)
"Calling Dr. Death" (Univ.)
RITZ—(1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,700).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 13th week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $10,500).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
UPTOWN — (1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $10,500).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
WARNERS HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,742. (Average: $17,000).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
WARNERS DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $23,568. (Average: $18,700).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
WARNERS WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,575. (Average: $15,200).

Classics Gets Four Laurel & Hardys

George Hirliman, president of Film Classics, disclosed here yesterday that his company will release four Laurel & Hardy feature films immediately.

The pictures are "Pack Up Your Troubles," "Sons of the Desert," "Pardon Us" and "Beau Hunks," all produced by Hal Roach.

Lasky on 'Auction'

Jesse L. Lasky, Warner Brothers producer whose next release will be "The Adventures of Mark Twain," will appear on Dave Elman's "Victory Auction" over the Mutual Network tomorrow at eight p. m.

Review

"Rosie, the Riveter"

(Republic)

REPUBLIC explores the housing shortage in this pleasant little programmer in a manner that should find ready acceptance by the entire family through the appeal of its homey, and often amusing, incidents. The story, a simple one, revolves around complications which result when four defense workers, two male and two female, are reluctantly forced to share occupancy, in shifts, of the same room.

The two girls, Jane Frazee and Vera Vague, finally gain possession of their own room through the expedient of pawning Miss Frazee's engagement ring. They use the funds to establish Lloyd Corrigan in business and thus force a reconciliation with his wife, Stella Prouty, who has been occupying their new room. Miss Frazee becomes permanently estranged from her disapproving fiance, Frank Fenton, and eventually fastens her affections on Frank Albertson, one of the defense workers.

Joseph Santley has directed at a goodly pace from the Jack Townley and Aleen Leslie screenplay based on the magazine story, "Room for Two," by Dorothy Curnow Handley. Miss Frazee sings several musical numbers, most prominent of which are "Rosie, the Riveter," by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb, which has achieved considerable public hearing. Other players are Frank Jenks, Maude Eburne, Carl (Alfalfa) Switzer, Louise Erickson, Ellen Lowe, Arthur Loft and Tom Kennedy. Armand Schaefer was associate producer.

Running time, 75 mins. "G."* Release date, April 9.

CHARLES RYWECK.

*"G" denotes general classification.

Delivery Breakdown Near in Cincinnati

Cincinnati, March 23.—Film carriers operating out of here are presently maintaining delivery schedules, but it is questionable how long they can continue due to their inability to secure tires and replacements parts for motor equipment. The situation is said to be typical in many places elsewhere.

Henry J. Wessel, owner of Film Service, operating a large fleet and serving a vast theatre area, typically states that Federal agencies have failed to take action on deliverers' applications, accompanied by documentary evidence of necessity for repairs, filed several months ago.

"Moreover," Wessel continues, "we have several disabled trucks and more will have to be taken out of service soon unless we obtain favorable action. Inasmuch as pictures are considered essential to maintaining morale on the home front, the handicap under which we are working is unfortunate."

N. Y. Screen Canteen Celebrates Birthday

Bonita Granville and home office executives were guests at first anniversary reception of the Silver Screen Canteen at the Fraternal Clubhouse here Wednesday evening. The canteen is sponsored jointly by the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109 and the Screen Publicists Guild and is staffed by hostesses from home offices and New York exchanges and is financed jointly by the office workers of the companies and by contributions by the companies.

Fire Destroys Theatre

Neligh, Neb., March 23.—A fire and explosion here destroyed the Moon Theatre owned by Walter Bradley, including three business establishments. Four persons were injured; damage was estimated at $100,000.

Montreal Mayor Asks Crime Films' Ban

Montreal, March 23.—This city's anti-delinquency drive, which started off with a bang last week with the gun murder of Detective Sergeant Henri Farmer by a 15-year old boy, had led to an attack on alleged crime-inspiring films by civic and religious heads. The mayor, at a dinner given by the local Junior Chamber of Commerce to Rev. Father Albert Rober, director of the Canadian Boys' Town, voiced a request to local exhibitors not to show films glorifying criminal types as heroes.

The mayor implied that, although for the present he was making a request of exhibitors, he would move to stop any film of this character if they did not cooperate.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Roland Bodger condemned current films and comic strips as adversely affecting the juvenile mind. Rev. Mgr. E. J. Flanagan, founder of Boys Town, declared here, however, that parental delinquency was chiefly to blame for child delinquency.

'Bernadette' Rates A Rousing $18,000

Indianapolis, March 23.—"The Song of Bernadette" will do $18,000 at the Circle in spite of unusually bad weather. "The Purple Heart" and "My Best Gal" at the Indiana will gross $12,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 21-23:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (75c-$1.10) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $11,800).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
"My Best Gal" (Rep.)
INDIANA—(3,200) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,600).
"The Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
"Yanks Ahoy" (UA-Roach)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $11,500).
"Frisco Kid" (WB)
"Coastal Commando" (RKO)
LYRIC — (2,000) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $4,900).

Ross Federal Names District Managers

Harry A. Ross, president of Ross Federal Service, reports the advancement of several in the Ross ranks, among them the promotion of O. M. Young to the managership of the Midwestern district, with headquarters in Chicago; the advancement of C. R. Corradini as manager of the Northeastern district, with offices in Boston, and the transfer of Jules Weill to head the Metropolitan district in New York. Each has served as branch manager for some 14 years.

The promotions complete a new national district-managers' setup with J. A. Kraker as Mideastern manager, with offices in Philadelphia; W. O. Anderson, Southern manager, with headquarters in Atlanta, and Ruel G. Williams, supervisor of the West with offices in Los Angeles.

In addition, announcement was made of the transfer of E. A. MacKenna to Indianapolis to replace O. M. Young. Replacing MacKenna in New Orleans is Milton Kress, formerly of Atlanta.

Providence Gives 'Sullivans' $15,000

Providence, March 23.—Business was generally good here during the week with "The Sullivans" at the Majestic taking $15,000 for the lead.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 23:

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Rookies In Burma" (RKO)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 5 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $12,800, 7 days).
"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,800. (Average: $10,500).
"Rationing" (M-G-M)
"Hey Rookie" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $17,700).
"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,100).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Majestic. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $4,000).
"Lady in the Death House" (PRC)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: Sleepy Hollow Gang, Byrne Sisters, Green & Dooley, Charlie Deighan, Margaret Phelan, Hokomo Joe. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,500).
"Million Dollar Kid" (Mono.)
METROPOLITAN — (3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Sonny Dunham's Orchestra, Paul Sydell, The Claytons, Eddie Hanley. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $7,900).

RCA Signs Seven Circuits for Service

W. L. Jones, vice-president of RCA Service Co., reports that seven more circuits have been signed by that company for sound servicing. They include Paramount-Richards, Dixie Theatres and United Theatres, all with headquarters in New Orleans; Notopoulos Theatres, Altoona, Pa.; A. M. Ellis, Philadelphia, Bijou Amusement Co., Nashville, and Eskin Theatres, Milwaukee.

'Phantom' to Open

Chicago, March 23.—Universal's "Phantom Lady" will have its Midwestern premiere here at the Woods Theatre next Tuesday. Ella Raines, star of the picture was honored this week at a press reception at the Hotel Stevens. Harry Keller, recently named to the local Universal publicity staff was in charge of arrangements.

JANE WITHERS

My Best Gal



with **JIMMY LYDON**

FRANK CRAVEN
FORTUNIO BONANOVA
FRANKLIN PANGBORN

ANTHONY MANN — Director

Screenplay by Olive Cooper — Earl Felton
Original Story by Richard Brooks

A Republic Picture

'Bernadette's $46,000 Still Tops Chicago

CHICAGO, March 23.—Continuing to lead the Loop, "The Song of Bernadette" grossed $46,000 in the fourth week of its Midwest roadshow premiere at the State-Lake Theatre.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 25:

"Rationing" (M-G-M) and "Henry Aldrich Boy Scout" (Para.) 2 days, 3rd week
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox) 5 days
APOLLO—(1,200) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,400).
"Swing Fever" (M-G-M)
CHICAGO—(3,850) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Glen Gray and Band. Gross: $45,000. (Average: $51,500).
"The Return of the Vampire" (Col.)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
GARRICK—(1,000) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,100).
"Gung Ho" (Univ.) and "Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.) 6 days, 4th Loop week
"Government Girl" (RKO) and "Escape to Danger" (RKO) 1 day
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,100).
"Frisco Kid" (WB)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (35c-40c-55c-65c-75c) 7 days. Stage: Jan Garber and Band. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Government Girl" (RKO) and "Escape to Danger" (RKO) 6 days, 2nd week
"Tender Comrade" (RKO) and "Hat Check Honey" (Univ.) 1 day
PALACE—(2,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $20,400).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
STATE-LAKE—(2,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $46,000. (Average: $29,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $28,500. (Average: $20,200).
"The Lady and the Monster" (Rep.)
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000).

'Marseille' Leads Buffalo with $21,000

BUFFALO, March 23.—Rain and snow dented boxoffice returns here somewhat, but business continued to be good generally. "Passage to Marseille" will bring the Buffalo Theatre to a $21,000 level.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 25:

"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
BUFFALO—(3,489) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $21,200. (Average, $17,400)
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 3d week. Gross: $14,000. (Average, $16,600)
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,200. (Average, $9,700)
"The Woman of the Town" (U. A.)
"Casanova in Burlesque" (Rep.)
20TH CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average, $12,200)
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
"Hey, Rookie" (Col.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (35c-40c-55c-65c) Gross: $14,500. (Average, $12,400)

Bruce 'Chronicle' Critic

SAN FRANCISCO, March 23.—Hazel Bruce, short story writer, has been named dramatic critic for the San Francisco *Chronicle*. She will be assisted by Richard Liles.

'Jeep' Preview Set

20th-Fox's "Four Jills in a Jeep" will have its world premiere in three theatres, simultaneously, in Florida today. The theatres are the Lincoln, Miami Beach; and the Capitol and Miami in Miami.

Short Subject Reviews

"Eagle Versus Dragon"

(Universal)

One of the most absorbing and colorful shorts to reach the screen in months, "Eagle Versus Dragon" is an authentic picturization of the capture of the "dragon" iguana lizard, in its native Mexican habitat, by an American bald eagle. The unique subject was filmed in Technicolor for Universal by John H. Green and narrated by Dan and Jule Mannix, who were assigned to capture the lizard alive. The Mannixes, known for their ventures for zoological societies, do well in their first film. Their touches of humor in the commentary give a natural pleasantness to the otherwise serious through interesting business. Filmed shots of the actual battle between the bird and the lizard are exciting. Music score by Jack Shaindlin is commendable. Paul R. Thomas directed. Joseph O'Brien and Thomas Mead compiled. Running time, 17 mins.

"Mallard Flight"

(RKO)

For those who like hunting the mallard this is an especially fine reel. All of the fine points are demonstrated by experts. The setting is the picturesque Texas Panhandle. Squire, a Chesapeake retriever, steals the show. Running time, 9 mins.

"Trombone Trouble"

(RKO)

Jupiter and Vulcan reposing on a fluffy cloud in the "Great Beyond" are disturbed by a noisy trombone player. The two dispatch volts of electricity to Donald Duck, empowering him with a strange and terrible strength which he utilizes to knock out the troublesome trombonist. Whereupon Donald appropriates the instrument, blows some sour notes, which sends Jupiter and Vulcan hustling back into the clouds. This is a very entertaining cartoon, both for its novel theme and its gay musical score. Walt Disney produced. Running time, 7 mins.

"Say Uncle"

(RKO)

Leon Errol, with his wife on vacation, feels the need for some good, clean fun. Just as he is really enjoying himself—with a blonde assisting—Mrs. Errol returns home unexpectedly. She was awfully annoyed and the results are amazing. One of the better subjects in the Errol series, "Say Uncle" is considerably helped by improved dialogue and an ample supporting cast, including Joan Blair, Claire Carleton and Bob Homans. Bert Gilroy produced. Ben Holmes directed. Running time, 18 mins.

'Rookie' and Show March to $26,500

CINCINNATI, March 23.—A cold weekend with heavy snow slowed attendance, but "Hey, Rookie," plus a stage show, promised the RKO Albee $26,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 22-27:

"Hey, Rookie" (Col.)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: Johnny Long and orchestra, Patti Dugan, Billy Rayes and Gene Sheldon. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $22,000).
"The Bridge of San Luis Rey" (UA)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 5 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000, 7 days).
"Escape to Danger" (RKO)
"Sailor's Holiday" (Col.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,300. (Average: $1,400).
"So This Is Washington" (RKO)
"Partners of the Trail" (Mono.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $800. (Average: $800).
"Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (Univ.)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $9,500).
"A Guy Named Joe" (M-G-M)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, after initial week at the Palace and moveover week at the Shubert. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,200).
"In Our Time" (WB)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Up in Arms" (RKO-Goldwyn)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from the RKO Palace. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,000).

Loew's Gets 'FWBT'

Paramount's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" is tentatively scheduled to open on April 20 in 30 houses of the Loew Metropolitan circuit, at advanced prices of 75 cents and $1.10.

Theatre 'Showcase' Shortage on B'way

The holdover situation at downtown New York first-runs is not only causing major companies to pile up releases for weeks, but is leading United Artists, Artkino, Rank's Eagle-Lion and others to seek playing time from the New Victoria, Globe and Central to provide them with a first-run Broadway "showcase."

Columbia is understood to be anxious to set "Address Unknown" in the New Victoria. United Artists is reported to have sought to take over the house completely. Maurice Maurer, who operates, is also understood to have been offered Rank's "Colonel Blimp."

Artkino has about eight films which will shortly be available; three are ready. One is "People's Avengers," Soviet guerilla documentary with narration by Norman Corwin. The company is said to be anxious to arrange with a downtown first-run for several weeks of playing time yearly. Mentioned in this connection are the Globe and the Central. Renovations at the Central are expected to be completed this week.

U. A. Sells Eight Roaches for Spain

United Artists has sold eight Hal Roach features for distribution in Spain to various agents, it was learned yesterday. The films include: "Turnabout," "Housekeeper's Daughter," "Topper Returns," "There Goes My Heart," "Captain Caution," "Broadway Limited," "Roadshow" and "Zenobia."

Negotiations were handled by Walter Gould, foreign manager for United Artists, and Roach's Eastern representative, Grace Rosenfield.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 23

FOR the first time this year production neared the peaks of the previous year with 15 new pictures put before the cameras. Prominent was "Gold Town," starring Wallace Beery in the role of "Honest Plush" Brannon. Columbia put three on the stages, RKO-Radio reported three new ones in work, Republic started two, Universal, Monogram and PRC one each, while United Artists producers started two new ones.

•

Lester Cowan launched work on his "Here Is Your War," based on the Ernie Pyle book, with a number of actual war correspondents, including Hay Boyle and Don Whitehead of Associated Press, playing themselves. . . . Paramount has signed Joan Caulfield, seen in New York with "Kiss and Tell." She reports to the studio June 1. . . . Due to a conflict in schedules, Charles Lamont has taken over Arthur Lubin's directorial reins on "Bowery to Broadway" at Universal.

•

Edward Small's "Abroad With Two Yanks" was put in work by Director Alan Dwan with five young actresses selected from 40 aspirants to play Australian canteen hostesses who kiss the Yanks. Those selected because they either had the right Aussie accent or could easily acquire it were Phyllis Adair, Jill Browning, Mary McLeod, Daphne Moore and Jean Prescott. Helen Walker was borrowed from Paramount for the feminine lead.

•

Gale Storm, Monogram's brightly shining starlet, presented a four-by-six-foot pin-up picture of herself to the boys of the 823rd Anti-Aircraft Battalion at Camp Haan when they selected her as their pin-up girl. . . . Ann Sothern will do a fireman skit in "Ziegfeld Follies" at M-G-M in between scenes of "Maisie Goes to Reno." . . . Producer Irving Starr has assigned Archie Mayo to direct "Something for the Boys," at 20th Century-Fox.

RKO Charged with Cancelling Deals

Suit for $506,702 for alleged breach of a distribution contract was filed here Wednesday in Federal Court by Stephens-Lang Productions against RKO Radio. The plaintiffs, producers of the "Dr. Christian" films, allege that under a contract entered into in April, 1939, they agreed to deliver three pictures to RKO by May, 1940, and that in Feb., 1940, RKO exercised an option for three additional "Dr. Christians."

The producers charge that RKO violated the contract when it cancelled and refused to enforce hundreds of contracts with exhibitors for various "Dr. Christian" films.

Stephens-Lang further allege that they informed RKO they would be obliged to borrow money in order to fulfill their part of the agreement and, with RKO's approval, allegedly did borrow large sums, but because of RKO's refusal to fulfill its obligations, the plaintiffs charge that the loans have not been repaid. Schwartz and Frohlich, local attorneys, represent the plaintiff.

Exchanges in R.C. Drive 100%: Pielow

All manpower in the New York exchange area has been made available to aid the industry's 1944 Red Cross drive, it was stated here yesterday by Ralph Pielow, local distributor drive chairman, following a meeting of zone captains and exchange managers at the M-G-M offices. The gathering was addressed by Pielow, who presided, and Sam Rinzler, local exhibitor co-chairman.

Each exchange employe will contact his neighborhood theatre every day during the campaign to offer personal service in connection with the drive, and will assist otherwise, Pielow said. He also revealed that the Metropolitan Bookers Association will cooperate.

Rinzler, speaking of the importance of continuous contact of all theatres, also urged that the largest possible personal contributions be made.

Among those present were Jack Bowen, M-G-M, metropolitan distributor chairman, and Myron Satler, Paramount; Moe Saunders, 20th-Fox; Howard Levy, M-G-M; Phil Hodes, RKO; Dave Burkan and Jack Ellis, United Artists; David Levy and William Murphy, Universal; Joe Felder, Monogram; Clarence Eisman, Warner Bros.; Robert Fammon, Republic, and Irving Wormser and Saul Trauner, Columbia.

2,000 More Studio Red Cross Donations

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—The Red Cross studio "invasion year" drive has gained 2,000 contributions in the past week, a report luncheon at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel disclosed today, but the campaign is still 1,200 short of the "war chest" goal set a few months ago.

With many top-bracket earners still absent from the list of contributors, industry leaders voted to continue the drive through the first two weeks of April, Chairman Frank Carothers announced.

To date, 36 unions have accounted for 18,895 of the 21,322 contributions. M-G-M leads the studios with 4,032, followed by Warners with 2,972; 20th-Fox, 2,953, and Paramount, 2,705.

Parade, Rally in Queens

Climaxing the activities of the Queens theatre division of the War Activities Committee-motion picture industry 1944 Red Cross drive will be a parade and rally tomorrow at 2 P. M., with Joan Davis appearing in person and with borough president James A. Burke leading the procession.

MacGowan to Leave 20th-Fox April 1

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—Kenneth MacGowan will not renew his producer contract with 20th-Fox when it expires on April 1 but will, instead, enter independent production, it was learned here today.

MacGowan, who joined 20th-Fox through a merger in 1935, left the studio in April of 1941 to take charge of film production for the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, from which post he was granted a leave in September of 1942 to finish out his contract with the company.

Unions and Guilds Must Bare All Dollar Deals

(*Continued from page* 1)

file on Form No. 990, which, basically, is the Government's standard form for organizational claims for exemption from Federal income tax payments and to which exemptions the unions are still entitled. But, the unions now subject to such filing must disclose their monetary status as never before.

They must itemize income from all sources and itemize all disbursements. Income to be specified includes interest from Federal, state and municipal bonds; interest on loans, notes, mortgages, bonds, bank deposits; dividends; profits on sale of stocks, bonds and other securities as well as on other assets not a part of inventory; gifts, grants, dues, assessments, contributions, pledges, offerings and all other receipts.

Among disbursements to be listed are salaries, wages and commissions; compensation of officers; interest; rent; taxes and other expenses; dividends and other profit distributions to members or shareholders; and all other disbursements.

In reporting assets the unions are required to report on cash; notes and accounts receivable; investments, including ownership of bonds and securities, and all other investments.

Under liabilities, the unions must report accounts payable; notes, mortgages and bonds payable; shareholders' and members' equities; and all other liabilities.

Statements on gifts, grants, dues, assessments, contributions, pledges and on other receipts of the organization, as well as salaries, wages, commissions, compensation of officers and all other disbursements made by the organizations, must be supported not only by itemized schedules showing the amount, but also by lists of the names and addresses of all persons from whom money or other property was received, or to whom money or other property was paid or distributed, in all cases where the money or property received, paid or distributed amounted to $4,000 or more during the year. Membership organizations must submit a schedule showing total number of membership; classes of membership, if any; number of members in each class; and assessments, dues or other charges applicable to each class.

Thousands of organizations in all fields have been filing such returns since March 5, 1942, among them the MPPDA, the new law having been extended to unions. Only religious, charitable and educational organizations are now exempt from filing.

Midwest Circuits 'Over Top' on Bonds

DES MOINES, March 23.—Tri-States and Central States theatre circuits sold at least $14,170,163 in war bonds during the Fourth War Loan drive. Forty-two bond premieres were held.

Returns from independent houses are not yet complete and only about one-third of the unaffiliated theatres have reported to date.

Ryan Bars 500 Extras From Going on Stand

HOLLYWOOD, March 23. — The Screen Actors Guild today won a salient point in the National Labor Relations Board's hearing on the petition of the Screen Players Union to determine the bargaining agent for extras, when examiner Charles Ryan ruled against the SPU's counsel's putting 500 class "B" players on the stand in an effort to prove that a majority of extras also play bit parts.

William Berger, SAG counsel, protested on the grounds that records of all studios and central casting offices were being prepared for introduction and would provide factual evidence as to how great a percentage of "B" players do bit parts.

Ryan has recessed the hearing until Wednesday, when the SAG will open its case, calling many prominent actors to testify.

150 Warnerites Were Inducted in 2 Months

More than 150 additional Warner employes were inducted into various branches of the armed service in the past two months.

Warnerites now in service total 3,353. Among this week's inductions was Richard Waring, Warner actor.

WB Files to Quash Griffith Summons

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 23.—Vitaphone Corp., long inactive, and Warner Bros. have filed motions to quash summonses brought in the anti-trust suit of three Oklahoma independents against the Griffith interest.

Both Vitaphone and Warners state in petitions filed in Federal Court here that apparently mistakes were made by the plaintiffs in their petitions. The plaintiffs include A. B. Momand of Shawnee, Okla.

Samuel Carlisle, assistant treasurer of Vitaphone, filed both motions. The Vitaphone petition states that a defendant named Vitaphone, Inc., is referred to in the petition, but that this apparently is a mistake. The second motion states that Warners is not qualified to transact business in Oklahoma. Momand has been joined by M. L. Riggs, of Vinita, Okla., and by Mystic Theatre, Picher, Okla., in suing the Griffith circuit.

'U' Debentures Offered at 99

Offering was made here yesterday of $7,500,000 Universal Pictures 3¾ sinking fund debentures due March 1, 1959, at 99, by a banking group headed by Dillon, Read & Co. and 25 other banking houses.

Proceeds will be applied to payment of $5,018,000 secured notes and redemption at 102 percent of $2,000,000 five percent convertible debentures with balance of the proceeds to be added to working capital.



Ten Years Without Doubles for 160 Interstate Houses

(*Continued from page* 1)

It started as a one-woman department, with Mrs. Short charged with screening, classifying, booking and publicizing short subjects. She sold the Circuit's managers on the importance of proper balancing of programs and the need to advertise shorts as an integral part of every film bill. The "crusade" was successful and Interstate did not require double features.

Staff of Six

Now, ten years after inauguration, the department has a six-person staff and is a complete organization within itself. It has its own magazine which is a weekly digest of shorts, sales ideas and commendation of managers' successful selling of shorts. It also contains *The Doghouse,* which has housed Circuit personalities from managers to top executives who ran afoul of established rules for short product. The department has art and advertising departments and a screening room for previewing all shorts, serials and newsreels.

Booking 160 theatres in 35 cities, the staff handles from 1,200 to 1,400 subjects and changes of program weekly. Now nearly all major circuits use the circuit's magazine material on shorts.

The manpower shortage has made the department an all-woman affair. Five assistants are: Mildred Fulenwider, Gertrude Jackson, Virginia Lyne, Anna Mae Handlin, assistants in booking, and Nell Tridge, editor of the magazine.

Fox Gives Warning On Television Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

clinic" yesterday, Trammell in a closed session today, reduced their scope to homes. He repeated his impression that television and films can cooperate and expressed the hope that producers might create special departments to explore possibilities, perhaps leading to production of special television films for home consumption.

Trammell also voiced the opinion that such production might establish a testing ground for new personalities for use in regular production and indicated that incompleted plans are under discussion for a two to three hour show on the stage of the Radio City Music Hall at an undetermined date to diagnose audience reactions.

It was reported that Trammell's switch in emphasis from television for theatres as well as homes yesterday to television in homes today is traceable to the fact that the best sized image NBC has been able to develop so far is 16 inches only.

CBS Promotes Frankel

Mortimer Frankel, with United Artists for six years before he joined Columbia Broadcasting last August as a staff writer, has been appointed associate editor in the CBS script writing division, to replace Elwood Hoffman, who is now editor of the division under Robert J. Landry.

Theatre Changes . . .

Interstate Changes

SAN ANTONIO, March 23.—Interstate Circuit personnel changes have been announced as follows: Esther Anderson has been named assistant treasurer at the State; A. J. Reynolds has been promoted to the managership of the Uptown; Tommy Powers, ex-chief of service at the Majestic, has been named student manager at the Palace.

Strand Building Sold

CINCINNATI, March 23.—The Strand Building, housing the Strand-Telenews Theatre and owned by the 531 Walnut St. Corp., headed by Alex Schreiber, president of Associated Theatres in Detroit, has been acquired by a local realty company. Concurrently with the transfer, Associated took a 10-year lease on the Strand-Telenews, which plays double features.

Woman Manages Village

TORONTO, March 23.—Evelyn Lilly, former assistant at the Eglinton, succeeds Howard Knevels as manager of the Village here. Miss Lilly is Toronto's first woman manager. Irene Storey takes over Miss Lilly's post at the Eglinton.

Munson to Atlanta

ATLANTA, March 23.—Ted Munson, with Lucas and Jenkins Theatres in Macon, has been transferred here to manage L. and J.'s Roxy, succeeding Sam Hammond who has moved to Columbus.

Elder to Kansas City

INDIANAPOLIS, March 23.—William Elder, manager of Loew's Indianapolis, has become manager of Loew's Midland in Kansas City, Mo. Boyd Sparrow succeeds Elder at the Indianapolis.

Yassenoff Gets Another

ADA, O., March 23.—The Odeon Theatre here has been sold by W. R. Rhodes to Leo Yassenoff who operates a circuit in Columbus. Yassenoff also owns the local Ada.

Leahey Manages Studio

SAN FRANCISCO, March 23.—John Leahey has been named manager of the Robert L. Lippert circuit's Studio Theatre, formerly the Egyptian, on Market St.

Barhydt to Strand

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 23.—Don Barhydt, formerly of the Court Square Theatre here, has been named manager of the Strand in Gloucester.

Rose Sells House

CLEVELAND, March 23.—Ralph Rose, recently sold the Ridge Theatre to Sam Goldfarb, a newcomer to the industry.

Nixon Changes Hands

AKRON, O., March 23.—M. A. Mooney, and F. H. Hathaway have sold the Nixon Theatre here to Joseph Coles.

To Close $9,500,000 RKO Loan Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

been made to retire all remaining preferred stock of Keith-Albee-Orpheum Corp., of which there is about $1,360,000 outstanding.

The new $9,500,000 loan undertaken by the First National Bank of Boston has been privately placed, Kingsberg disclosed, with no public issue of securities contemplated. The purpose of the refinancing, which will result in a saving of approximately $1,250,000 in interest or about $100,000 a year to KAO, is the consolidation of existing obligations under a single issue, Kingsberg previously disclosed.

First disclosure that RKO was contemplating the refinancing was made in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Dec. 2, and additional details were disclosed Feb. 18.

Says RKO Wrongly Charged by Prefect

NEW HAVEN, March 23.—Malcolm Kingsberg took the stand here today in the trial of the Prefect anti-trust suit against the majors and testified that the Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., of which he is vice-president and treasurer, had no part in pooling arrangements to which the plaintiffs are objecting.

From 1934 until 1941, Kingsberg stated, Keith-Albee-Orpheum theatres were operated and managed separately from other RKO houses; and it was the former, he explained, that took part in the pooling in question. RKO has been named as a defendant in the suit, but KAO has not.

Readying 100 Films For Free Europe

(*Continued from page* 1)

Also represented will be war propaganda films, recording fictionally the war effort of the U. S. and that of the European underground, and which constituted about one-fourth of the 40 films earmarked last year.

A breakdown by companies indicates that Universal has 20 features in preparation, United Artists eight, and a minimum of 10 each from M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, Warners, RKO and Columbia.

Although several foreign managers are said to agree that business abroad will be prosperous, they forsee, however, that a great deal will depend on the dollar exchange, quotas and other restrictions erected in the various countries.

$4,650,751 Drop In Tax Receipts

(*Continued from page* 1)

however, were at an all-time high. Receipts in February, 1943, were $11,317,101.

For the first eight months of the 1943-44 fiscal year, the bureau announced, collections totaled $120,630,825, compared with $103,557,840 for the corresponding period one year ago. Approximately 45 percent of the loss in February from January was concentrated in the third New York (Broadway) district, where collections dropped from $3,290,906 to $1,113,539 and showed a decline of $900,000 from the $2,093,948 recorded in February, 1943.

Box-office collections on the Broadway front dropped from $3,033,552 in January to $906,493 last month.

Stars to Air Plea To Register, Vote

Hollywood, March 23.—Walter Huston, Martha Scott, Dinah Shore, William Bendix, Victor Moore, Joan Bennett and Maureen O'Hara will participate in a broadcast over NBC tomorrow from 12:05 to 12:30 A.M. (EWT), titled "Let's Ring Doorbells," asking a 100 per cent registration and vote this election year. Spencer Tracy is tentatively scheduled to appear.

The stars, who have formed a citizen's committee to stage a house-to-house campaign to urge all to register, will ask other communities to follow suit.

Myron Selznick Is Dead; Agent Was 45

(*Continued from page* 1)

was the son of Lewis J. Selznick, industry pioneer, and served in all branches of exhibition, distribution and production. He was formerly general manager of Norma Talmadge Film Corp. for Joseph M. Schenck. Later, with Selznick Pictures Corp., he became a producer. At one time he was producing 52 features yearly, operating three studios in Fort Lee, N. J., one in the Bronx and one in Hollywood. He also became vice-president of the old Select Pictures Corp.

Sought to Rebuild Fortune

When the fortunes of Selznick's enterprises changed with the depression of the 20's, he attempted to rebuild his fortune in the Florida boom. Returning to Hollywood, he started Myron Selznick and Co., talent agency. He was one of the founders of Selznick-International.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at the Temple Israel here, with Rabbi Max Nussbaum officiating. Additional services will be held in Pierce Brothers Beverly Hill Chapel, with William Powell delivering a eulogy. Pallbearers will be Powell, Gene Fowler, Walter Wanger, Major Frank Lloyd, Pat O'Brien and Edward Sutherland; and honorary pallbearers, Walter Lang, William A. Wellman, Lewis Milestone, Edgar J. Mannix, Adolph Menjou, Harry Rapf, Ernst Lubitsch, Joseph Nolan, Harry D'Arrast, Siegfried Marcus, Lester Roth, Ben Hecht and Harry Sokoloff. Temporary interment will be in Hollywood Cemetery.

Film Backing Sought For the City Center

Seeking an arrangement that would "serve to close the gap between motion pictures and the legitimate theatre," Newbold Morris, board chairman of the City Center of Music and Drama here, is negotiating with two film concerns to give the Center's plays the same kind of sponsorship its musical performances receive from National Broadcasting Co., Morris said yesterday. NBC has subscribed $6,000 to date.

Morris indicated that a financial statement to be issued next month would show a small loss for the Center, which keeps its admission prices down to $1.65 and 55 cents.

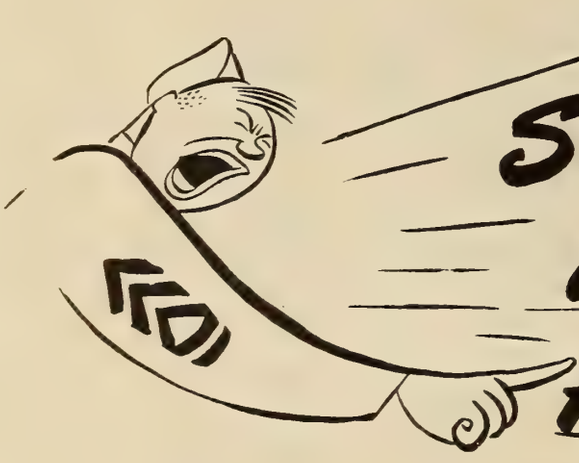
MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING GUIDE

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Feb. 26	SAILORS HOLIDAY Arthur Lake Jane Lawrence Bob Haymes C—61 mins.	(Sixth Block) THOUSANDS CHEER Kathryn Grayson Gene Kelly M—126 mins. (413)	MILLION DOLLAR KID East Side Kids D SWEETHEARTS OF THE U. S. A. Una Merkel C—(315) ARIZONA WHIRLWIND O—59 mins. (363)	(Third Block) MIRACLE OF MORGAN'S CREEK Eddie Bracken Betty Hutton D—99 mins. (4312)			(Block Three) AROUND THE WORLD Kay Kyser M—80 mins. (411)		IT HAPPENED TOMORROW Linda Darnell Dick Powell Jack Oakie C	CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK Donald O'Connor Joel Kupperman Peggy Ryan M—(8011)	
Mar. 4		THE CROSS OF LORRAINE Pierre Aumont Gene Kelly D—90 mins. (414)		STANDING ROOM ONLY Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray C—83 mins. (4314)	FRONTIER OUTLAWS Buster Crabbe O—(462)	THE BIG SHOW Gene Autry (reissue) O—(3302) HIDDEN VALLEY OUTLAWS Wild Bill Elliott O—56 mins. (378)	THE GHOST SHIP Richard Dix D—69 mins. (412) TARZAN'S DESERT MYSTERY Johnny Weismuller Nancy Kelly D—70 mins. (413)	(March Release. No definite date set) PURPLE HEART Dana Andrews Tala Birell D—99 mins. (422)			FRISCO KID (reissue) James Cagney Margaret Lindsay D—77 mins. (325)
Mar. 11	HEY ROOKIE Ann Miller Joe Besser Larry Parks C—77 mins.	LOST ANGEL Margaret O'Brien Marsha Hunt D—91 mins. (415)		THE UNINVITED Ray Milland Ruth Hussey D—98 mins. (4315)	LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE Lionel Atwill Jean Parker D—(414)	THE FIGHTING SEABEES John Wayne Susan Hayward D—100 mins. (311)	ROOKIES IN BURMA Alan Carney Wally Brown C—62 mins. (414)	4 JILLS IN A JEEP Carole Landis Martha Raye Dick Haymes C—(423)	VOICE IN THE WIND Francis Lederer Sigrid Gurie Alex Granach D	HAT CHECK HONEY Grace McDonald Leon Errol Walter Catlett C—(8031)	PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE Humphrey Bogart Claude Rains D—110 mins. (312)
Mar. 18	TWO-MAN SUBMARINE Tom Neal Ann Savage J. Carroll Naish D—62 mins.	MADAME CURIE Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon D—124 mins. (490)		HENRY ALDRICH, BOY SCOUT Jimmy Lydon C—66 mins. (4311)		MOJAVE FIREBRAND Wild Bill Elliott G. "Gabby" Hayes 55 mins.—(377)	HIGHER AND HIGHER Frank Sinatra Michele Morgan Jack Haley M—90 mins. (415)			LADIES COURAGEOUS Loretta Young Geraldine Fitzgerald Phillip Terry D—88 mins. (8065)	
Mar. 25	SUNDOWN VALLEY Charles Starrett Jeanne Bates Walter "Dub" Taylor O—55 mins.	CRY HAVOC Margaret Sullavan Ann Sothern D—97 mins. (417)		TIMBER QUEEN Richard Arlen Mary Beth Hughes D—66 mins. (4313)	THUNDERING GUN SLINGERS Buster Crabbe THE AMAZING MR. FORREST (English) D—(413)	MY BEST GAL Jane Withers Jimmy Lydon Frank Craven C-67 mins.	THE NORTH STAR (Special Release) Anne Baxter Dana Andrews D—106 mins. (451)		SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Bonita Granville C	HI GOOD-LOOKIN' Harriet Hilliard Eddie Quillan Ozzie Nelson's Orchestra Jack Teagarden's Orchestra M—62 mins. (8044)	
April 1	THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Gloria Stuart D	SONG OF RUSSIA Robert Taylor Susan Peters D—107 mins. (422)	PARTNERS OF THE TRAIL (Roughrider) O—(353)	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS D (Advance Price Engagements) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—168 mins.(4338)		THE LARAMIE TRAIL Bob Livingston "Smiley" Burnette O—56 min. (355) OUTLAWS OF SANTA FE Don "Red" Barry O—56 min. (366)	(Block Four) TENDER COMRADE Ginger Rogers Robert Ryan D—102 mins. (416)	(April Releases. No definite date set) BUFFALO BILL (Technicolor) Maureen O'Hara Joel McCrea D—(424) 90 mins. TAMPICO Lynn Bari E. G. Robinson D—75 mins. (425) SHRINE OF VICTORY British documentary—45 mins.	UP IN MABEL'S ROOM Gail Patrick John Hubbard C		
April 8	COVER GIRL (Technicolor) Rita Hayworth Gene Kelly Phil Silvers Jinx Falkenburg M—107 mins.	A GUY NAMED JOE Irene Dunne Spencer Tracy D—120 mins. (416)		(Fourth Block) THE HOUR BEFORE THE DAWN Franchot Tone Veronica Lake D—75 mins. (4317)	GUNS OF THE LAW James Newill Tex O'Brien O	ROSIE, THE RIVETER Jane Frazee Frank Albertson Vera Vague C—75 mins. (313)	PASSPORT TO DESTINY Elsa Lanchester Gordon Oliver D—64 mins. (417)			WEIRD WOMAN Lon Chaney Anne Gwynne Evelyn Ankers D D—64 mins. (8027)	SHINE ON, HARVEST MOON Ann Sheridan Dennis Morgan Irene Manning M—112 mins. (313)
April 15	JAM SESSION Ann Miller Jess Barker M	BROADWAY RHYTHM Ginny Simms George Murphy M—114 mins. (419)	LADY, LET'S DANCE Belita James Ellison Frick & Frack M—84 mins. (301)	YOU CAN'T RATION LOVE Betty Rhodes Johnnie Johnston C—79 mins. (4318)	THE MONSTER MAKER D—62 mins. (419)	OH SUSANNA Gene Autry (reissue) O—(3303)	THE CURSE OF THE CAT PEOPLE Simone Simon Kent Smith D—70 mins. (418)		GOOD-BYE, MY LOVE Linda Darnell George Sanders D	HER PRIMITIVE MAN Louise Albritton Robert Paige D—(8016)	
April 22	GIRL IN THE CASE Janice Carter Edmund Lowe—D WYOMING HURRICANE Russell Hayden O	SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE Robert Walker Donna Reed C—101 mins. (420)	HOT RHYTHM M—79 mins. Dona Drake Robert Lowery (314)	THE NAVY WAY Robert Lowery Jean Parker D—75 mins. (4316)	SHAKE HANDS WITH MURDER D—(422) PINTO BANDIT O—(4569 WATERFRONT	TROCADERO Rosemary Lane Johnny Downs Bob Chester's Orch. M—74 mins. (314)	ESCAPE TO DANGER Eric Portman Ann Dvorak D—84 mins. (419)			MOON OVER LAS VEGAS Ann Gwynne David Bruce D—(8037)	UNCERTAIN GLORY Errol Flynn Paul Lukas D
April 29	MISSION 36 Larry Parks Jeanne Bates John Carradine D	THE HEAVENLY BODY Hedy Lamarr William Powell D—95 mins. (421)	OUTLAW TRAIL (Trailblazer) 53 mins. (364) O	(Special) LADY IN THE DARK (Technicolor) Ginger Rogers Ray Milland M—100 mins. (4336)	MEN OF THE SEA D—(420)		ACTION IN ARABIA George Sanders Virginia Bruce D—75 mins. (420)		SENSATIONS OF 1944 W. C. Fields Eleanor Powell M	SLIGHTLY TERRIFIC Leon Errol Anne Rooney Evelyn Ankers C—(8036)	
May 6		SWING FEVER Kay Kyser Marilyn Maxwell M—81 mins. (423)	LAW MAN Johnny Mack Brown O—55 mins. (354)		MINSTREL MAN Benny Fields Gladys George Roscoe Karns O—(404)		UP IN ARMS (special release) Danny Kaye Dinah Shore (Technicolor) C—105 mins. (452)		THE HAIRY APE William Bendix D	COBRA WOMAN (Technicolor) Maria Montez Jon Hall Sabu	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama, (M) Musical, (C) Comedy, (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses.

EXTRA! FIRST DAY
SETS ALL TIME
M-G-M ASTOR RECORD!







Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 23-29

VOL. 55. NO. 60 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1944 TEN CENTS

May Request Exhibitors to Ease Demands

Step Seen After Clark, Kuykendall Talk

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Possibilities that exhibitors may be asked to lighten some of their demands in order that a mutually satisfactory consent decree revision may be developed were seen here following a conference yesterday between U. S. Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark and Ed Kuykendall, president of the MPTOA, who last Tuesday submitted his association's recommendations for basic provisions.

The film chief of the Department of Justice and the head of the exhibitors' organization talked for some

(*Continued on page* 11)

New Trial Asked in Jackson Park Case

CHICAGO, March 26. — Distributor and exhibitor defendants in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust suit filed a motion for a new trial in Federal district court here on Friday. Petitioners have 10 days in which to file briefs in support of the motion, and Judge Michael Igoe has set April 21 for a hearing.

A jury recently awarded the exhibitor plaintiff triple damages of $360,000 at the conclusion of trial of the suit here. If the motion for a new trial is denied, it appears certain that the defendants will take an appeal to the U. S. Circuit Court.

First U. S. Films In Italy Since 1938

Information on American film exhibition in Italy is being compiled by the Office of War Information and will be made public soon by that agency, with the exception of military information, an OWI official disclosed here at the weekend. Italy is seeing Hollywood product for the first time since 1938.

Robert Riskin, director of the OWI overseas film division, abroad since November, is expected to return to the U. S. shortly. He is currently reported conferring with Lacy Kastner, OWI European operations head, in London, and with British Ministry of Information officials and American and British Army officers.

Raw Stock Makers File Delay Actions With Draft Boards

WASHINGTON, March 26.—With a view to holding their employes until the present muddled situation with respect to the ending of deferments for men between 18 and 26 is clarified, raw stock manufacturers are filing delay actions with local draft boards which make mandatory a review of all deferment cases.

Representatives of the manufacturers who visited Washington last week to discuss the situation with Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the WPB film section, also disclosed that lists of critical occupations in the industry have been developed for the use of local War Manpower Commission and Selective Service agencies, which they are hopeful will be considered in passing on skilled men in the film-producing plants.

Meanwhile, a special committee under the chairmanship of Paul V.

(*Continued on page* 11)

Make-Up Artists Want 5% Increase

The producers' studio labor representatives and company heads will get the contract proposals of IATSE Local 706, representing studio make-up artists and hair stylists, when their sessions resume here this morning at the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact.

Among the proposals is understood to be a demand for a five percent wage

(*Continued on page* 11)

Allied Armies in Joint Production

Actual joint production and compilation of motion pictures on and from the battlefields by American and British film services, as witnessed in the new "Tunisian Victory," will be continued, it is revealed here by the New York bureau of the British Ministry of Information.

Newest action in this connection was the recent arrival of Britain's Lt. Col. Geoffrey Keating, from the Italian battles, to work with the U. S. Signal Corps here on incoming material from the Italian campaigns. War pictures earmarked for theatre distribution will be released simultaneously in the United States and England.

Cracks Down On Film Scrap

Local film exchanges plan no test of a New York City Fire Department regulation requiring the removal of scrap film from all exchanges here twice daily but, rather, will take under consideration a proposal to establish a "community" film vault in which to store the scrap, at a meeting of the New York Film Board of Trade on Wednesday, Clarence Eiseman, Warner New York branch manager and chairman of the board's fire prevention committee, has informed MOTION PICTURE DAILY. The Board's executive committee, Eiseman said, will meet

(*Continued on page* 11)

100,000,000 Reduced Servicemen's Tickets from 16 Theatres Here

An estimated 100,000,000 cut-rate tickets have been sold to service men and women by some 16 first-run film theatres in New York's Times Square area since the policy began, according to Harry Brandt, chairman of the theatre committee on the Mayor's Recreation Committee for New York.

Figured on the basis of an overall average 25-cent reduction, the theatres have contributed some $25,000,000 to the entertainment of members of the armed forces. Theatres like the Roxy, Paramount, Capitol and Strand have contributed most to this overall figure in view of both their seating capacities and the fact that the reduced servicemen's admission at those houses is about 30 cents while general admission prices reach as high as $1.25.

In some instances the percentage of servicemen's admissions may run as high as 60 or 70 percent of the total admissions of a particular show, depending upon the picture being shown, or it may drop to 10 per cent, or even lower, it was said.

Theatres in addition to those mentioned above are the Hollywood, Rivoli, State, Astor, Criterion, Mayfair, Rialto, Victoria, Globe, Central, Palace and New York.

WAC Pledges Aid for Fifth Loan Drive

Industry Also Promises To Help Wac Recruiting

The motion picture industry has been pledged to participate in the forthcoming Fifth War Loan drive, understood to be set for some time in June, for which Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., has set a goal of $16,000,000,000. The industry has also pledged to aid in recruiting women for the Women's Army Corps.

Both pledges were made at the joint annual meeting of the War Activities Committee's theatres division executive committee and the WAC coordinating committee, held at the Hotel Astor Friday, with George J. Schaefer, WAC chairman, presiding. The luncheon meeting followed a morning session of the theatre division, led by Si Fabian, chairman.

Joseph McConville, Columbia executive, was elected chairman of the

(*Continued on page* 11)

Asks 125 Circuits For 2d R.C. Week

More than 125 circuits over the weekend received telegraphic appeals from Joseph Bernhard, national industry chairman of the Red Cross drive, asking them to extend the collections-at-every-performance through a second week. All independents are also being appealed to.

Bernhard's appeal followed a request from Leon Fraser, national chairman of the Red Cross 1944 drive. Bernhard declared he was confident theatres would meet quotas through extension of the collections.

20th-Fox Donates $143,574 to R. C.

Twentieth Century-Fox contributions to the Red Cross drive will reach $143,574, the company announced at the weekend.

Recently, each of 31 20th-Fox exchanges in the U. S. contributed $500 to local Red Cross chapters. Additionally, contributions of $1,000 from each branch office will be made to local chapters in keeping with the company's pledge that any monies received in rentals from 'Victory' shorts, in excess of actual production costs, would be donated to a war charity.

Personal Mention

BEN KALMENSON, Warner general sales manager, returned from the Coast late last week.

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SOL A. SCHWARTZ, RKO Theatres Western zone manager, and WILLIAM HOWARD, RKO vaudeville booking head, returned from California at the weekend.

•

HARRY M. WARREN, general manager of Central States circuit, has returned to Des Moines from a two-week stay in Cuernavaca, Mex. MRS. WARREN accompanied him.

•

HAROLD LAGAR, of Paramount's home office, has been inducted and will report to the Navy today. He was given a farewell luncheon by fellow workers Friday at the Hotel Dixie.

•

MICHAEL DALY and JOSEPH DI LORENZO, owner and assistant manager, respectively, of the Daly Theatre circuit, Hartford, Conn., were in New York at the week-end.

•

W. C. GEHRING, 20th Century-Fox Western sales manager, left at the weekend for Minneapolis and will visit other Midwestern exchanges thereafter.

•

A. H. BLANK, president of Tri-States and Central States circuits, left Des Moines at the weekend for Hollywood where he will attend a meeting of Paramount partners.

•

EILEEN O'CONNELL of 20th-Fox's radio department left at the weekend for Concord, N. H., for a ten-day vacation.

•

C. C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew's vice-president, is scheduled to leave Wednesday for a three-week vacation in Miami.

•

ROBERT M. GILLHAM, Paramount advertising-publicity director, left at the weekend for Washington.

•

TOM BALDRIDGE, M-G-M Washington exploiteer, returned from New York over the weekend.

•

AL BURKES, M-G-M Charlotte exploiteer, was in New York over the weekend.

•

PHILIP ZAHN has announced the engagement of his daughter RUTH to SGT. BERNARD (BINGO) BRANDT.

•

ALFRED EDWARD DAFF, Universal foreign supervisor, has arrived in London.

•

NATE SPINGOLD, Columbia Pictures executive, left for the Coast over the weekend.

Rackow to Monogram

WINNIPEG, Man., March 26.—Victor Rackow has replaced Abe Feinstein as local office manager of Monogram Pictures, Ld.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

ONE of the most pointed presentations of the possibilities of the motion picture in the postwar world which we have heard given publicly was contained in a talk by Louis Nizer at the testimonial dinner to Bob Wolff at the Waldorf last Tuesday, in anticipation of Wolff's departure for London about the first of April to become managing director for RKO Radio in Great Britain.

Nizer pointed out the new uses to which the motion picture is being put by governments throughout the world, involving the development of its educational and editorial possibilities. The greatest application of this screen potential, he believes, will be in the dedication of the motion picture to the cause of lasting peace once this war has been won. He cited evidence that Germany even now accepts defeat as inevitable and plans for the next war. He sees the motion picture as perhaps the most powerful weapon in the hands of the victorious Allies to be dedicated to the frustration of that plan and the preservation of the peace.

He does not overlook the role the American industry may be called upon to play in such an undertaking, nor that of its executive representations in world capitals throughout the postwar world.

• •

The London slant on the projected visit of Isidore Ostrer to these shores is that it is motivated almost entirely by private, which is to say, personal reasons, despite the fact that he will be authorized by the British Film Producers Association to explore, as its emissary while here, the possibilities of postwar reciprocities between the British and American industries.

London asserts that the voyage is being undertaken at Ostrer's suggestion, that the trip will be at his own expense, that he will have no official commission from the B.F.P.A. and will not be authorized to commit that organization in any way while here. His exit visa still is under discussion with the government and, in the meantime, no date for his departure can be set.

The possibility of a visit by Francis W. Baker, head of the Kinematograph Renters Society, to the United States is being discussed with Michael Balcon, but no decision has been made yet. If Baker eventually does come over, it would be on a sales mission on behalf of the product he handles. His visit would have no connection with the projected Ostrer trip.

Said Balcon when queried about this: "Baker can sell our pictures without others helping."

• •

Universal's recent financial advertising, placed in key newspapers across the country, has been favorably commented on in leading financial and advertising circles. The advertisements, prepared in connection with release of the company's annual statement to stockholders, presented by chart, illustrations and text the basic story of the company's operations in a manner which could be readily understood by Mr. Average Reader.

The comments which have been heard on the ads would indicate that considerable institutional value attaches to this type of approach to the public. Financial men were impressed by the picture it presented of a "house in good order," despite the serious problems of the day. Advertising men viewed it as a new presentation of motion picture affairs to a segment of the public that ordinarily draws its impressions of the industry from the amusement pages and from fan magazines.

The corporate story of the industry was never in better state for presentation to the public than it is today. Though it is all too infrequently told, it is, nevertheless, a story worth the telling.

• •

Addenda: John J. O'Connor, Universal vice-president, is scheduled to be given a new long term contract shortly after his return from the Coast studio, where he is now visiting. . . . Charles Francis Coe, on inactive status for the final year of his contract with MPPDA, is not expected to be re-named vice-president of the Association at the annual election scheduled for today. . . . Max A. Cohen has withdrawn from the MPTOA, of which he was a member of the board of directors. . . . Jack Kirsch, president of Allied of Illinois, is reputed to be the only exhibitor organization official in such a capacity to hold a multi-year contract, and at a reported salary of $20,000 annually.

MPPDA Meeting To Be Held Today

The annual report of Will H. Hays to the board of directors of MPPDA, touching upon a wide variety of wartime industry operations and accomplishments, is scheduled to be read at the organization's annual meeting here today.

The annual election of officers and directors of MPPDA will be held at today's session, with no changes in the present directorate indicated in advance. Officers are: W. H. Hays, president; Carl Milliken, secretary, and George Borthwick, treasurer. All member company presidents with the exception of Spyros Skouras, who is in London, and Harry M. Warner, in Hollywood, will attend the meeting.

Four Receptions For C. B. DeMille

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Netherlands, Sweden, China and the State of Arkansas will honor Cecil B. DeMille, producer of Paramount's "The Story of Dr. Wassell," which will have a preview at Constitution Hall here on April 1.

Arkansas, the home State of Cmdr. Corydon M. Wassell, the Navy doctor whose exploits are depicted in the film, will give a luncheon on March 31; the Netherlands Embassy will be host to DeMille at a dinner for 200 guests on April 1; the Swedish Embassy will fete him on April 2 and China will honor him on April 4.

Rapf Will Retire as Executive Producer

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—Harry Rapf will relinquish his post as executive producer for M-G-M when he leaves here the first week in April for a three-month vacation in the East, it was learned at the weekend. Upon returning he will join the studio executive staff.

For some time there have been persistent rumors that Rapf would retire from his position, with the bulk of his duties taken over by M. J. Siegel. Rapf joined the company in 1924 as associate producer along with Louis B. Mayer in the merger of that year.

RKO's $9,500,000 Loan Is Closed

Contracts between B. F. Keith Corp., RKO theatre subsidiary and the First National Bank of Boston for $9,500,000 of refinancing of existing Keith obligations at 3¼ percent were signed here on Friday.

In connection with the loan, a mortgage for $7,600,000 by B. F. Keith Corp. to the Old Colony Trust Co., Boston, covering metropolitan theatre properties, was recorded here on Friday. Among the properties involved are the Fordham, Franklin, Royal and Chester theatres, Bronx. Details of the loan were published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Friday.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.



. . . in proud appreciation

of a job well done!



Thank you,

CHARLES P



THE FOURTH



SKOURAS

Under your capable leadership, a united industry has achieved a magnificent united effort in

WAR LOAN

Our quota was brilliantly exceeded due to the untiring work of your committee, the State Chairmen, the War Activities Committee throughout the country and the exhibitors of America, so ably assisted by their 150,000 employees.



We are proud to be part of an industry that has done such an outstanding job on the 4th War Loan and again pledge to our country the continued efforts of us all

COLUMBIA PICTURES

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

MONOGRAM PICTURES

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

RKO RADIO PICTURES

20th CENTURY-FOX

UNITED ARTISTS

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

WARNER BROS.

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

Congratulations

CHARLES P. SKOURAS

FOR A JOB WELL DONE





Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 26

W. RAY JOHNSTON, Monogram president, has returned from the nationwide tour in connection with his 30th anniversary sales campaign. His last stop, on Friday, was at Dallas, where he was feted by exhibitors.

•

M-G-M has bought "A Little Bit of Heaven," romantic comedy with music, written by Robert Andrews, Air Corps Captain Luther Davis and Marine Captain John Cleveland, who was killed in action. It concerns Broadway in the 1901 area. Jack Cummings will produce the film, and Gene Kelly and Kathryn Grayson will star.

•

PRC's fifth annual sales conference has been scheduled for the first week in May. Assistant general sales manager Leo J. McCarthy will arrive tomorrow to confer on the subject with Leon Fromkess, production vice-president.

•

Columbia has signed Marc Platt, dancing star of the Broadway musical, "Oklahoma!" to a term contract. His first will be the Technicolor production, "Tonight and Every Night," which Victor Saville is directing.

•

Warner Bros. have bought from Doubleday Doran, in advance of publication, the film rights to "The Land I Have Chosen," by Ellen Berlin, wife of Irving Berlin.

•

Sam Clark, Warner exploiteer, left by plane over the weekend for home office conferences on "The Adventures of Mark Twain."

Mellett Will Return To Newspaper Work

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Lowell Mellett, former head of the U. S. Film Service and until last July chief of the motion picture bureau of the domestic branch of the Office of War Information, will return to newspaper writing next month.

His resignation as one of Roosevelt's six administrative assistants, disclosed several weeks ago, was formally announced by the President at the weekend. Mellett is scheduled to write a column, "On the Other Hand," for the Washington *Star* and other papers.

Ansco Gets 'E'

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., March 26.—Ansco, manufacturer of photographic materials, has been awarded the Army-Navy "E." Approximately 75 per cent of Ansco's production since Pearl Harbor has been for the government and essential war industries. Formal presentation of the "E" emblem will be made at Ansco here today.

To Honor Louis Ingram

MEMPHIS, March 26.—M-G-M will hold an introductory luncheon for Louis C. Ingram, formerly at the Atlanta office, recently appointed branch manager here, at the Peabody Hotel on April 17. Charles E. Kessnich, district manager, is in charge of arrangements. Ingram succeeds Frank Willingham, now in St. Louis.

Review

"Cowboy and the Senorita"

(Republic)

REPUBLIC has another Roy Rogers winner in "Cowboy and the Senorita." It's highly pleasant entertainment with Guinn Williams, Mary Lee and Dale Evans in support of Rogers. The story, though not entirely unfamiliar, is easy to take and gives opportunity for both Miss Evans and Miss Lee, as well as the "King of the Cowboys" to disport their vocal talents to good advantage. Miss Lee, remembered for her roles with Gene Autry, gives one of her best performances.

Ned Washington and Phil Ohman provide some gay and charming songs, among them "The Enchilada Man," a catchy novelty; "Cowboy and the Senorita" and "What'll I Use for Money." Also, Bob Nolan and Tim Spencer come up with "The Bunk-House Bugle Boy," to which the "Sons of the Pioneers" do justice. This all-around production is augmented by specialty dance numbers by Cappella and Patricia, Jane Beebe and BeneRochelle, and Tito and Corrine Valdez.

The story concerns an abandoned mine, owned by young Miss Lee, which John Hubbard, a crooked business man, seeks to buy. Miss Evans, half-sister to Miss Lee, is unsympathetic to the youngster's sentimental attachment to the mine, left her by her father, despite the little girl's belief in a "hidden treasure." Rogers and Williams hire on as ranch-hands, determined to help Miss Lee hold the mine. They suspect Hubbard, but they are fired by Miss Evans for insulting him. As the bill of sale is about to be signed, the boys arrive with gold samples from the mine and proof of Hubbard's intent to defraud the two girls.

Joseph Kane directed from a screenplay by Gordon Kahn, adapted from a story by Bradford Ropes. Walter Scharf was musical director. Harry Grey produced.

Running time, 78 mins. "G."* Release date, May 5.

HELEN MCNAMARA

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Twain' Pulled After Week at 200 Spots

Warners' "The Adventures of Mark Twain," starring Fredric March and Alexis Smith, will open the week of May 6 in more than 200 cities for runs of one week only at $1.20 top, it was announced at the weekend by Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager. This, the company claims, is the most extensive, national day-and-date advanced price premiere ever held.

The film will be withdrawn after one week, except in New York, and will be given general circulation later in the season. The film will open in New York at the Hollywood.

RKO Depositions in Griffith Case Taken

Seymour Feig, statistical analyst of the RKO home office legal department, gave depositions here Friday in the Government's anti-trust suit against the Griffith Amusement Co. He identified RKO contracts with Griffith theatres and the independents in Oklahoma City and Dallas. Albert Boggess, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, took the depositions.

Similar evidence has previously been taken from officials of Paramount, 20th-Fox, Warners and United Artists in hearings preceding the trial.

Omaha Strike Averted

OMAHA, March 26.—A threatened strike at the Universal exchange here was averted last week when the local office joined IATSE. Bill Wink, president of Local F 47, stated that "local film row is now 100 percent union."

Vaudeville at Palace With 'Boys' Preview

For a few hours tonight the Palace here will once again have old-line vaudeville when Sophie Tucker sings and George Raft dances for the midnight preview of Universal's "Follow the Boys."

Among those invited were Ted Lewis, Fred Allen, Vera Zorina, Andrews Sisters, Smith and Dale, Belle Baker, Fred Waring, Pat Rooney, Mabel Russell, Milton Berle, Lillian Shaw, Jack Pearl, Fritzi Scheff, Irene Bordoni, Joe Browning, Evelyn Nesbit, Ella Shields, Herman Timberg, Gertrude Hoffman, Joe Howard, Lulu McConnell, Buck and Bubbles, J. C. Nugent, Senator Ford, Harry Hershfield, Dan Healy and many others. Charles K. Feldman, producer of "Follow the Boys," is here from Hollywood for the preview.

Joe Laurie, Jr., will act as master of ceremonies. There will be a broadcast over WEAF. After the screening a buffet supper will be served backstage.

Mexicans Spurn Nazi Musical Film

MEXICO CITY, March 26.—Though Mexican censors passed the German film, "The Great Operetta," because it was shy of apparent propaganda, the Mexican public here has ignored it at the Cine Lindavista here, and it closed after one day.

Film was distributed by EMA Films, president of which is Gen. Juan F. Azcarate. EMA is said to have been placed on the American 'black list' for this film. Azcarate has been commissioned by the government to tour Central and South American cities exhibiting Mexican documentaries to foster cultural relations between Mexico and her sister countries.

Tells How Peskay Acquired Pickwick

NEW HAVEN, March 26.—Details of how Edward J. Peskay acquired the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, were contained in part of a deposition from George Skouras read here today in the trial of the Prefect anti-trust suit against the majors. RKO, Loew's, Fabian, and others, according to the statement, all sought the house in 1932 when the Fox Metropolitan circuit, which had operated it, went bankrupt; but Peskay, wishing to get a house of his own, had an opportunity to obtain the Pickwick and was given the "go ahead" by Skouras, his employer, the deposition said.

Later, according to the deposition, Peskay acquired two theatres in Stamford and offered them to Skouras about the middle of 1933; and, when the latter was not interested, Peskay left the organization.

Says Brothers Split Profits

The deposition further explained that the three Skouras brothers—George, Charles and Spyros—originally had a standing arrangement to divide among themselves all earnings from their various enterprises but that this was terminated when Spyros became president of 20th-Fox.

It has been the opinion of George Skouras, according to the deposition, that the clearance of White Plains over Porchester was not justified, inasmuch as White Plains was nine miles away and Greenwich only seven and a half. The document added that, at a conference in Skouras' office, Peskay held that Portchester and Greenwich were not in competition.

With regard to entering the pools that are the subject of complaint in the suit, Skouras said he had taken this step in 1932 because he was convinced a profit could not be made on the runs then existing, the deposition added.

9 Capital Managers Are Bond Winners

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Nine Washington theatre managers have been awarded prizes for the recent Fourth War Loan contest sponsored by the MPTO of the District of Columbia, for selling 27,315 bonds with a maturity value of $2,306,475.

Winners were: Jack Foxe, manager, Loew's Columbia, awarded a $100 bond as the best salesman and a $50 bond as the best downtown theatre salesman; the other eight, awarded $50 bonds each for neighborhood sales were: Jack Marcon, Warners' Apollo; William Ward, Congress; Sidney Hoffman, Warners' Kennedy; Charles Demma, Apex; George I. Miller, Republic; James D. Jefferson, Strand; Harry Bachman, Circle; and Albert V. Pohl, Laurel.

Foxe and Fred Thomas, of Warners' Earle were local winners in the "National Honored Hundred" contest.

Columbia Finances Play

Columbia Pictures has invested $20,000 in the new musical comedy, "Dream With Music," to be produced by Richard Kollmar, starring Vera Zorina, Ronald Grahame and June Knight, it was reported here last week. Jules Brulatour, it is understood, has also acquired an interest in the show, which is expected to open on Broadway in May.

RED CROSS BULLETIN!

The need is even greater than anticipated!

EXHIBITORS ARE ASKED TO EXTEND COLLECTIONS THRU SECOND WEEK-END MARCH 30-31, APRIL 1-2

THIS IS A REQUEST TO HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF OUR BOYS. THEY DO NOT FAIL US. DARE WE FAIL THEM? PLEASE COOPERATE!

WAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Short Subject Reviews

"Crash Goes the Hash"
(*Columbia*)

The Three Stooges, as reporters, get in and out of several ridiculous situations and come through with the wrong story in the end. But the wrong story is a good one—they unmask a fake nobleman for what he really is: a robber preying on dowagers. There is the usual routine slapstick and the Stooges' fans will like "Crash Goes the Hash" as well as their previous subjects. Jules White produced and directed from a screen play by Felix Adler. Running time, 17 mins.

"How to Be a Sailor"
(*RKO*)

Disney's "Goofy" recounts the history of sailing in this entertaining Disney cartoon, from the time the cave man fell in a lake and saved himself by paddling to shore on a log, to the modern battleship which, in a wild stretch of the author's imagination, sails right through Tokyo, exploding the domain of the Rising Sun. Goofy is good for laughs in any cartoon and this is one of his best. Running time, 7 mins.

"A Night in Mexico City"
(*Warner Bros.*)

Twenty minutes of Mexican music may be too much for the ordinary film-goer. James Fitzpatrick takes the audience on a pictorial tour of Mexico City's night clubs, including "La Jungla," "The Coconut Grove" and "El Patio." Artists featured are Maria Luisa Carbajal, Mario Gil and the Tipica orchestra and chorus. Running time, 20 mins.

"South American Sway"
(*Warner Bros.*)

The orchestras of Joe Reichman, Carl Hoff and Emil Coleman tear through some South American dance numbers, including "Cachita," "Mexican Magic," "Negra, Baila La Conga" and "When Yuba Plays the Rhumba on the Tuba." This is a mildly entertaining reel which might have been improved by breaks in the musical sequence. Too much of one kind of rhythm makes it monotonous. Running time, 10 mins.

Exhibitors Recruit 51,998 Donors

During the first year of a campaign by New York City film theatres to secure blood donors for the Red Cross, over 51,998 have been recruited, Eddie Dowden of RKO, and WAC chairman for the donor campaign disclosed here at the weekend.

The drive was initiated by ten local exhibitors last February and since then exhibitors in New Haven, Los Angeles, and other cities have inaugurated similar drives, patterned after the New York plan of having five or six different theatres solicit the volunteers each week.

Review

"Adventure In Music"
(*Artists Films-Crystal Pictures*)

"ADVENTURE In Music" is an hour cinema concert of classical music presented by the celebrated artists Jose Iturbi, pianist; the late Emanuel Feuerman, cellist; Vronsky and Babin, duo-pianists; Mildred Dilling, harpist, and the Coolidge String Quartet. Its appeal would appear to be limited to music lovers and its market to the "art" or specialty theatres.

No attempt is made at continuity in the film. The artists are presented individually, each making two separate appearances. Producers Walter Lowendahl and Rudolph Polk and directors Ernest Mattray, S. K. Winston and Reginald Le Borg have taken it for granted that music lovers are only interested in watching and listening to the performances so they have concentrated upon camera angles rather than scenery. Among the more popular classical selections presented are the Polovetzian Dances from Prince Igor by Borodin, played by Vronsky and Babin; Rondo. Opus 94, by Dvorak, played by Feuerman; March of the Men of Harlech, arranged from the Welsh Air by John Thomas, played by Miss Dilling; Fantasie Impromptu and Liszt's 11th Hungarian Rhapsody played by Iturbi; and Fugue from Beethoven's Quartet in C Major, Opus 59, played by the Coolidge Quartet.

Running time, 62 mins. "G."* Release date March 4.

MILTON LIVINGSTON.

*"G" denotes general classification.

'Song's $26,700 Is Good in Boston

BOSTON, March 26.—Business was off a bit this week due to heavy storms. The Metropolitan, with "Desert Song," will show the largest gross with $26,700.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 23:

"Desert Song" (WB)
METROPOLITAN—(4,367) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $26,700. (Average: $23,800).
"Jane Eyre" (20th Fox)
KEITH MEMORIAL — (2,900) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $18,900. (Average: $17,800).
"Cover Girl" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,900) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,800. (Average: $15,600).
"Cover Girl" (Col.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM — (3,200) (44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $23,700. (Average, $23,700).
"Action in Arabia" (RKO)
RKO BOSTON—(3,800) (44c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. On stage: show with Guy Kibbee, Gross: $30,000. (Average: $26,700).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(1,700) (35c-55c-65c). Gross: $17,500. (Average: $14,500).

Cooper to Fire Meeting

TORONTO, March 26. — The annual convention of the Dominion Fire Prevention Association, of which Col. John A. Cooper of Toronto is president, is scheduled to be held in Winnipeg during the last week in May. Cooper is chairman of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association and was directly concerned with the Toronto film building fire last fall which caused one death and damage of $200,000.

Wood with Republic

CHICAGO, March 26.—Edward L. Walton, Republic district manager here, has appointed Madeline Wood as publicity representative for the company in this territory.

Wrobel to St. Paul

CHICAGO, March 26. — Norman Wrobel, handling publicity for the RKO Palace and Grand theatres here, is on a three-week assignment at the RKO Orpheum in St. Paul.

'Lassie' $18,000 In Minneapolis Run

MINNEAPOLIS, March 26.—"Lassie Come Home," $18,000, second offering at the Radio City theatre, was leader here in an off week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 25:

"Three Russian Girls" (UA)
WORLD—(350) (40c-50c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $2,400. (Average: $2,400).
"Johnny Come Lately" (UA)
ORPHEUM — (2,800) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $13,900).
"Desert Song" (WB)
STATE — (2,300) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $12,400).
"Woman of the Town" (UA)
GOPHER — (998) (35c) 7 days. Gross: $2,900. (Average: $3,700).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
CENTURY—(1,600) (40c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,400).
"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
LYRIC — (1,250) (40c-55c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $5,600).
"Lassie Come Home" (M-G-M)
RADIO CITY—(4,000) (40c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: 2 weeks, $21,000).
"Isle of Forgotten Sins" (PRC) 4 days.
"Career Girl" (PRC) 4 days.
ASTER—(900) (20c-30c) 7 days, with mid-week change. Gross: $2,600. (Average: $2,600).

Three M-G-M Screenings

M-G-M will hold national trade showings of "Two Girls and a Sailor" and "Three Men in White" on Monday, April 24, and "Gaslight," on Friday, April 28. The foregoing will complete trade screenings of the company's seventh group, "Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble" and "Meet the People" having been set for April 3 in all cities except Kansas City, where they will be shown April 4, at the Vogue Theatre.

Carrillo at State

Leo Carrillo will arrive in New York Sunday for personal appearances at Loew's State with Universal's "Her Primitive Man," opening Thursday.

Etter with 'Movie Life'

Betty Etter has been named editor of *Movie Life*, published by W. M. Cotton. She succeeds Llewellyn Miller, transferred to Hollywood as new Western executive editor.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 26

SAMUEL GOLDWYN has changed the title of "Treasure Chest," the next Bob Hope enterprise under his trademark, to "Sylvester the Great," and PRC has changed the title of "Dixie Showboat" to "Dixie Jamboree."

•

Spring Byington and Jackie Jenckins have been engaged by Dore Schary for "Double Furlough," his first Vanguard production. . . . Erle C. Kenton is to direct "Devil's Brood," second Boris Karloff vehicle under the actor's two-picture deal with Universal. That studio has assigned David Bruce to a principal role in "Can't Help Singing," Deanna Durbin's next, and has engaged Connie Haines, Jack Teagarden and other musically-slanted talent for "Twilight on the Prairie."

•

In a fervor of borrowing, with no favorites played, RKO-Radio has acquired from M-G-M the services of Marsha Hunt, from 20th Century-Fox, Allyn Joslyn, and from Columbia, Edgar Buchanan, for "That Hunter Girl." . . . Harold Clurman, New York director, is to make his debut at RKO-Radio in direction of "Deadline At Dawn."

•

Sir Norman Angell, the British author who won the Nobel Peace Prize, was a recent guest of Arthur Hornblow, Jr., at the M-G-M studio. He addressed the Free World Association of Hollywood and its guests last week on the 23rd. . . . PRC has signed Mary Beth Hughes for two pictures. "I Accuse My Parents," an original by Arthur Caesar, an addition to the PRC agenda.

SMPE to Discuss War Use of Films

Application of motion pictures to war needs will be the dominant theme of the 55th semiannual conference of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers to be held in the Hotel Pennsylvania here April 17-19.

The second day of the conference has been designated "Army-Navy Day," with officers of the armed forces leading discussions on training films. Some 38 papers will be presented by military men, motion picture engineers and representatives of industries allied with the film business, according to W. H. Offenhauser, Jr., chairman of the papers committee.

A symposium on television will highlight the opening session. "Television from the Viewpoint of a Motion Picture Producer" will be discussed by Wyllis Cooper of National Broadcasting and Worthington C. Miner of Columbia will talk on "Television from the Viewpoint of a Broadcaster." High-speed photography, 16mm film developments, and 16mm standardization are included among other topics scheduled for the symposium.

W. C. Kunzmann, convention vice-president announced at the weekend that the Society had cancelled all social functions usually held in connection with its meetings because of wartime conditions.

Make-Up Artists Want 5% Increase

(*Continued from page* 1)

increase subject to War Labor Board approval as in the case of other IATSE locals which have made similar demands to be brought up to the 15 percent allowable under the "Little Steel" formula. Representing the make-up artists and hair stylists are George Hayes, William Knight and Peggy Gray.

The locals are understood to be asking for wage increases in practically all job classifications where the workers have not received the allowable 15 percent. In most cases this represents a five percent boost. The general feeling is that there will be no difficulty encountered in securing WLB approval if the matter goes before the board on the basis of conciliation and not as a wage dispute.

Sound Men Heard Friday

Friday's sessions between the producers' representatives and the IATSE were devoted to IATSE Sound Technicians, with the meeting lasting until a late hour. Delays were occasioned by further sessions with Studio Cameramen and Costumers locals, with the producers reaching accord with costumers on their proposals and believed to be near accord with the cameramen.

Meetings last week at which the contract proposals of individual locals were heard were marked by considerably more harmony than those at which the general IATSE contract proposals were made. The producers are understood to be resisting the IATSE demand for a five percent producer levy on gross pay checks of members of the 11 IATSE studio locals to finance a "retirement, vacation and health benefit fund." They are also understood to be resisting demands for vacation and sick leave with pay.

Raw Stock Makers File Delay Actions

(*Continued from page* 1)

McNutt was set up by the WMC to study and pass along to Selective Service recommendations for special deferments of irreplaceable men in approved industries. The WPB, which would be concerned with possible deferments of "experts" within the industry, is among the Federal agencies represented on the committee.

Deferment requests of the agencies comprising the new committee must be made by tomorrow. After study by the whole committee, recommendations will be made to Selective Service directors in the form of quotas and ultimate deferment decisions will be made within the states to which the quotas are assigned.

Concurrently, five major rules were sent to state Selective Service directors by General Lewis B. Hershey for their guidance in inducting specialists under 26. The rules tend to hasten the calling up of men under 26, whereas the status of older registrants will remain unchanged while the pool of younger men is under examination.

Cohen Back to 20th

Charles Cohen has returned to his publicity post at 20th-Fox here after four weeks at the War Activities offices helping to promote the current Red Cross campaign.

WAC Pledges Industry's Aid in Fifth Loan Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

foreign managers division, replacing Philip Reisman. Fabian was unanimously reelected as chairman of the theatres division, and so were Schaefer and Francis S. Harmon, to the posts of chairman and executive vice-chairman, respectively. Arthur L. Mayer, treasurer, resigned, nominating Herman Gluckman as his successor. Gluckman was appointed to the post without a dissenting vote.

Speakers at the luncheon included Major General J. A. Ulio, adjutant general, and Major John W. Hubbell, chief of the Army's Overseas Motion Picture Service.

Schaefer opened the luncheon meeting with a request for a silent tribute to the men in the industry now in service.

Flinn and Doob Speak

Following brief addresses by John Flinn, coordinator of the WAC Hollywood division, and Oscar A. Doob, public relations division chief, Schaefer introduced General Ulio.

Stating that the Army has its own manpower problem, the general added that "increasing the enrollments in the Wac is vital to the successful prosecution of the war." He reviewed the industry's contribution toward the war effort and expressed confidence that the projected industry recruiting campaign in connection with the exhibition of the short subject, "This Is Your War, Too," would do much to boost Wac enlistments.

Edward L. Alperson, chairman of the WAC special events committee, was asked to meet with his committee to prepare a national campaign in conjunction with the showing of the film.

A resolution passed at the theatres division meeting:

Resolved that the WAC theatres division express to the producers and distributors and to the WAC Hollywood division, its appreciation and admiration of the contribution they are making by the production and distribution of the OWI-WAC pledged short subjects and bulletins.

At the joint meeting Fabian specified that the request to participate in the Fifth War Loan came direct from Ted R. Gamble, national War Finance Committee.

Major Hubbell reviewed the industry's contribution to the Army, via its gift of 16mm prints of current films for free showing in combat areas, Red Cross hospitals and isolated outposts.

Hubbell stated that many more shows were being given to a greater collective audience every day. He quoted from a report from Phil Reisman, former head of the foreign managers division, who stated that distribution in Britain "compared favorably to commercial circulation of films in that area."

Praises Seidelman, Gluckman

Harmon, in discussing films for American prisoners of war, paid tribute to Joseph Seidelman and Herman Gluckman, through whose aid additional projection equipment and product were being supplied.

Those attending the joint session were Ned E. Depinet, Schaefer, Maj. Gen. Ulio, N. Peter Rathvon, Fabian, Barney Balaban, Gluckman, Joseph Bernhard, Alperson, Samuel Rinzler, Samuel Rosen, Charles Moskowitz, Ed Kuykendall, Bob Selig, Ed Schreiber, Walton C. Ament, Harry Brandt, McConville, Leonard Goldenson, Leon Bamberger, Nathan Yamins, Fred Schwartz, Charles Smakwitz, W. C. Michel, Dan Michalove, Vincent Trotta, Charles Skouras, Karl Hoblitzelle, Robert O'Donnell, R. B. Wilby, Walter Vincent, Joe Seidelman, Sam Morris, Harry Goldberg, Mayer, Oscar A. Doob, Joseph Hazen, Nate Blumberg, George Borthwick, Harry Lowenstein, Martin Quigley, Harry Buckley, Nicholas M. Schenck, Richard Walsh and Lou Brager.

Warners Completes Canada Loan Film

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—"Shining Hour," War Activities Committee two-reeler, has been completed at the Warner studio for use in Canada's sixth war loan.

Gordon Hollingshead produced, with Arnold Albert and Leroy Prinz as directors. Leo Forbstein handled musical direction. In addition to Dennis Morgan, Jack Carson and Irene Manning, the cast includes Cary Grant, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, and others.

Univ. Debentures Are Called for April 24

Holders of Universal Pictures Co. 5% convertible debentures, due April 1, 1950, are being notified that these debentures are being called for redemption on April 24, 1944, at 102 and accrued interest at the Manufacturers Trust Company, New York. Interest shall cease to accrue from the redemption date. The debentures are convertible, to and including the redemption date, into voting trust certificates for common stock on the basis of (a) 44.44 shares of common stock if converted before April 1, 1944, for each $1,000 principal amount of debentures, and (b) 40 shares of common stock if converted on or after April 1, 1944, and on or prior to the redemption date for each $1,000 principal amount of debentures.

N. Y. Cracks Down on Scrap Accumulation

(*Continued from page* 1)

today to approve the program for a vault.

The Fire Department had notified exchanges that fire regulations were being violated because salvage companies, which previously collected the scrap from exchanges at regular intervals in order to extract the silver nitrate content, ceased their collections with a consequent accumulation of the film cuttings.

Manuel A. Mojarrieta, Fire Department inspector of combustibles, has informed MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the order will be complied with if scrap film is removed daily from the several exchange buildings and stored in a fireproof building such as the Film Exchange Center.

May Request Exhibitors to Ease Demands

(*Continued from page* 1)

45 minutes, canvassing the situation and the possibilities of a decree rather than a litigated disposition of the issues.

Following the conference, Kuykendall said, "The Department is very friendly and very receptive to our opposition to present sales policies."

"If the producer-distributor interest would go into the correction of these abuses in sales policies wholeheartedly and determinedly," Kuykendall added, "everybody in the industry would be better off, and it might save the companies from forced reform later."

Firm on Cancellation

While both Clark and Kuykendall said there had been no developments in the situation since their last meeting, March 21, it was indicated that the exhibitors would be receptive to a consent decree containing the proposals submitted by the distributors Jan. 21, amended to provide for an unrestricted cancellation privilege of 20 percent, regardless of the number of pictures involved; modified arbitration provisions that would reduce the cost to the exhibitor and provide for regional appeal boards; the elimination of designated play dates, and the elimination from the distributors' proposal of the exemption of "showcases" and lock-out houses from the ban on circuit expansion.

It is understood that Kuykendall told Clark that these, plus a requirement that percentage picures should be offered under separate contracts, are the main objectives of the exhibitors' drive. The inclusion of these provisions in any decree was represented as vital, but while there are other changes which the exhibitors also would like to see incorporated it was not unlikely that the theatre operators might forego some of them if to do so would pave the way for a final agreement.

Must Move Slowly

As he left the Department of Justice, Kuykendall said he did not expect that the controversy would be settled overnight, pointing out that Government agencies, of necessity, move slowly and that there were several avenues yet to be explored.

Clark said that Assistant to the Attorney General Robert L. Wright still is engaged in his study of the proposals of the various exhibitor groups and indicated that several days would probably elapse before he completed his analysis, on the basis of which the Department will suggest a number of changes in the distributors' proposals.

He made it clear that the Department is not figuring on any quick settlement of the issues, indicating that the companies would be given time in which to study the suggestions he is to make and come back with such counter proposals as in their view might offer a satisfactory compromise.

A Letter from D.O.S. In re: "Cover Girl"

DAVID O. SELZNICK
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

March 9, 1944

Mr. Harry Cohn
Columbia Studios
Hollywood, California

Dear Harry:

My heartiest congratulations on "Cover Girl," which, there is no question in my mind, will be one of the most sensationally successful pictures in a long time. Certainly it deserves such success, for it is superbly made in every department, and in my opinion is the best musical entertainment that has been made in years.

I should appreciate it if you would extend my warmest and most sincere congratulations to Mr. Vidor for his superb direction; to Miss Van Upp for her delightful script; to Mr. Mate for color photography that has had few equals.

Miss Hayworth reveals talents as an actress that will unquestionably make her twice as great a star as she was previously; and Gene Kelly gives a performance that would be outstanding even in a straight drama. When there is added to this the wonderful score by Jerome Kern and Ira Gershwin, you have a combination of which any studio could be proud.

I am buying myself some more Columbia stock! You are really going places.

Sincerely,

David O. Selznick

dos:lh

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 61 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1944 TEN CENTS

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Fabian Buys Half Interest In W. and V.

Will Share Management With Walter Vincent

Si Fabian and Walter Vincent, two of the longest-in-service independent circuit operators in the East, have become partners, with Fabian's purchase of the 50 per cent common stock holdings of the Wilmer estate in Wilmer and Vincent Corp. and its 22 theatres in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Vincent owns the remaining 50 per cent.



Si Fabian

Fabian will become president of Wilmer and Vincent, with Vincent as

(*Continued on page 5*)

Camera and Sound Locals Argue Terms

Contract proposals of the IATSE studio cameramen and sound technicians and counter proposals made by the producers' representatives were subjects of the negotiations here yesterday between IATSE and producers' labor officials at the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact. The

(*Continued on page 2*)

Supreme Court Delay On Crescent Appeal

WASHINGTON, March 27.—No further action will be taken by the U. S. Supreme Court in the appeal of the Crescent Amusement case before next October. The voluminous record which must be printed, it was said, will prevent the court from hearing the case this term.

Cross appeals from the decision rendered last May 17 by Federal District Court at Memphis reached the Supreme Court early in February. After consideration of the initial briefs, the Court delayed its decision on the question of jurisdiction until the suit was brought up for argument.

Find Solution for Draft Problem of Raw Stock Workers

WASHINGTON, March 27. — New procedures adopted by the Selective Service System, under which the War and Navy Departments, War Production Board and other war agencies will be authorized to endorse special requests for deferment of key workers under the age of 26 engaged in war activities, were seen today as satisfactorily solving the problem of rawstock manufacturers.

The situation, it was said by Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the WPB film section, is far less serious than it appeared when the manufacturers had reason to believe that the cancella-

(*Continued on page 5*)

Lead '43 in First Red Cross Returns

First weekend field returns in the 1944 Red Cross drive show theatre collections running substantially ahead of 1943, it was announced here yesterday by the WAC. With 3,000 more theatres participating this year and a large majority extending collections through a second weekend, prospects of reaching the industry's quota were described as bright.

Included in the initial reports are theatres in New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Albany, Washington, Charlotte, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Des Moines, Newark, New Orleans, Memphis, Louisville and Buffalo.

Hays, Other MPPDA Officers Reelected

MPPDA directors reelected the following officers at the annual meeting here yesterday: Will H. Hays, president; Carl E. Milliken, secretary; George Borthwick, treasurer and F. W. DuVall, assistant treasurer.

Members attending were: Nate J. Blumberg, Borthwick, Jack Cohn, E. W. Hammons, N. Peter Rathvon, Nicholas Schenck, Harry D. Buckley, Austin Keough, William C. Michel, Milliken, Sidney Schreiber, T. Kennedy Stevenson, Adolph Zukor and Hays. A plan to celebrate the industry's 50th anniversary in April was endorsed and an appropriation made for it. Other matters briefly discussed yesterday will be taken up further at the adjourned meeting, April 14.

Rank, Skouras Plan Exchange of Talent

LONDON, March 27.—Included in the agreement reached here by Spyros Skouras and J. Arthur Rank is a provision for the lending of Hollywood stars, directors and scenarists to Rank's production interests here for a program of films, half of which will be given worldwide distribution by 20th Century-Fox and half by Eagle-Lion Films, it was learned here today. Rank has suggested also that British stars and directors be given assignments in Hollywood.

Describing the negotiations with

(*Continued on page 2*)

Hays Stresses Increase in Escapist Films

Says Trend Balanced by Realistic War Films

Although, due to wartime curtailment, the number of features passed by the Production Code Administration dropped from 546 in 1942 to 417 in 1943, there were increases in both "drama" and "comedies," reflecting a twofold service of the industry in the war effort, it was disclosed here yesterday in the report of president Will H. Hays at the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America.



Will H. Hays

Dramas increased from 80 to 91, with the largest jump, from 48 to 63, noted in the "social

(*Continued on page 5*)

General Precision Nets $1,225,907

The 1943 net of General Precision Equipment Corp., controlling also National Theatre Supply, amounted to $1,225,907, compared with $1,265,519 in 1942, according to the company's annual report released here yesterday. This is equivalent to $2.14 per share on 586,087 shares of capital stock out-

(*Continued on page 5*)

Cures for Trade Ills Must Come from Within: Rodgers

No solution to trade problems is seen by William F. Rodgers in either legislation or Governmental regulation, Loew's vice-president and general sales manager said yesterday at one of his periodic luncheons with trade press representatives at the Hotel Astor.

"The consent decree in its original form," he said, "did not provide the remedy and, according to my observations, neither will the present discussions satisfy anyone but the Government. I continue in the belief that harmony will exist in this business, but not until the interested parties again confer each with the other and

(*Continued on page 5*)

Selznick's Talent Agency to Continue

BEVERLY HILLS, March 27.—It was learned here last night that in accordance with the late Myron Selznick's wishes, the business of Myron Selznick and Co., talent agency of Hollywood, New York and London, will be continued in line with a participation plan he was working on at the time of his death.

A group of talent representatives, headed by Bert Allenberg, Frank Vincent and Leland Hayward have volunteered their services to the execu-

(*Continued on page 5*)

$1,214,001 Universal Profit for 13 Weeks

Universal Pictures yesterday reported a consolidated net profit of $1,214,001, after Federal taxes, for the 13 weeks ended Jan. 29, 1944. Before providing for taxes, consolidated profit amounted to $1,946,701.

For the same quarter in the preceding year, earnings were $1,225,186 and $2,215,298, respectively.

Personal Mention

JAMES GRAINGER, president of Republic Pictures, has left Chicago for Lake Placid, N. Y.

•

JAMES J. MURPHY, assistant executive director of the Motion Picture Arbitration System, left last night for Minneapolis.

•

JIMMY ROGERS, son of the late WILL ROGERS, is spending a short vacation in New York from Hollywood, accompanied by MRS. ROGERS.

•

HARRY KELLER, Universal Chicago publicist, is due to return to that city tomorrow from Detroit and New York.

•

LOUIS NIZER has returned to his home after a week's stay at the Park East Hospital.

•

WALTER BRANSON, RKO Western division sales manager, left last night for Chicago and Milwaukee.

•

ARNOLD STOLTZ, United Artists exploitation director, returned yesterday from New Orleans.

•

DAVE CARTER, Universal Eastern radio exploitation head, returned yesterday from Cincinnati.

•

VAN A. NOMIKOS, president of the Nomikos Circuit, returned to Chicago over the weekend from New York.

•

HENRI ELMAN, Illinois PRC franchise holder, returned to Chicago yesterday from New York.

•

SAM CLARK, Warner West Coast field representative, arrived in New York yesterday.

'Bernadette' Has London Premiere

LONDON, March 27.—A benefit premiere of "The Song of Bernadette" was held at the New Gallery Theatre here today for aid of British servicemen, in the presence of King Peter of Yugoslavia and his newly-wedded Queen Alexandra and the Polish and Greek ambassadors. Industry representatives present included Spyros Skouras, 20th-Fox president, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur Rank.

"Bernadette" will play at the New Gallery twice a day for an unlimited run, according to Francis L. Harley, British managing director for 20th-Fox.

Oppenheim to Warners

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—Saul Oppenheim, promotion manager of *Scholastic Magazine* for 15 years, has joined Warners' studio publicity staff to handle foreign publicity.

Karpinos Honored

Irving Karpinos of the 20th-Fox home office, who will enter the Army this weekend, was given a luncheon here yesterday at Martin's Restaurant.

U. S. Again Asks for Help on Salvage

Washington, March 27.—Because of a continuing pressing shortage of copper, the War Production Board is repeating its specific request to theatre owners to continue the salvaging of drippings and strippings from copper-coated high-intensity carbons.

The WPB reiterates its warning of the falsity of impressions that there is no longer need for exhibitors to continue to salvage copper.

Rank, Skouras Plan Exchange of Talent

(*Continued from page* 1)

Rank as "progressing very favorably," Skouras today predicted that the agreement might be signed by the end of the week.

The reciprocal production and distribution arrangements are in addition to the settlement of differences involving Metropolis & Bradford Trust holdings in Gaumont British. A 49 per cent interest in M. & B. is shared by 20th Century-Fox and Loew's, while another 49 per cent is controlled by Rank's interests. Settlement of the M. & B. differences, as between Skouras and Rank, was reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY earlier.

Garbo Returning in Norway Marine Film

WASHINGTON, March 27.—At the suggestion of Ambassador Wilhelm Morgenstierene, Greta Garbo will return to the screen to star in a picture based on the exploits of the Norwegian merchant marine, it was disclosed here by the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The film, as yet untitled, will be produced by Lester Cowan, who made "Commandos Strike at Dawn," which is about Norway's fighting home front.

Adjourn Prefect Case For Week; Jurors Ill

NEW HAVEN, March 27.—Because of the illness of several members of the jury, the trial of the Prefect Amusement Co's anti-trust suit against the major distributors, being held in Federal District Court here, has been adjourned for a week until April 4.

The hearing was originally scheduled to be resumed tomorrow after the usual weekend adjournment.

B. & K. Dividend

CHICAGO, March 27.—The board of directors of Balaban and Katz have declared $1 quarterly dividend on common stock payable March 31, it was reported here today.

KRS Admits Eagle-Lion

LONDON, March 27.—J. Arthur Rank's Eagle-Lion has been elected to membership in the Kinematograph Renters Society, organization of British distributors.

Camera and Sound Locals Argue Terms

(*Continued from page* 1)

groups had hoped to take up the proposals of studio make-up artists and stylists yesterday but failure to reach accord with the cameramen and sound technicians might occasion even further delay when the sessions between the IATSE representatives and studio officials and company heads resume today.

Producers are understood not to have experienced very much difficulty in reaching accords with individual IATSE studio locals on specific demands, which generally include five percent pay increases, improved working conditions, and resolving of other local problems. However, there are several general IATSE proposals which apply to all of the 11 IATSE locals upon which accord has not been reached. The producers are understood to have turned a deaf ear to the IATSE demand for 20 days a year sick leave with pay for every worker after one year's service. IATSE officials are also pressing for a wider application of the job classification system and for more liberal promotions from one classification to another with attendant pay raises.

It is understood that IATSE officials are also seeking to make provisions for jobs for men returning from armed services as well as to write military job security clauses into contracts covering men who are still to be called for service. Indications are that the IATSE officials will continue to press for the five percent producer levy on gross pay checks of members of the 11 IATSE studio locals to finance a "retirement, vacation and health benefit fund."

British Industry to Confer on Film Pool

LONDON, March 27. — Exhibitors here are still discussing a pool of prints in the event of a European invasion through which exhibitors could exchange films in the event of interference with normal transportation facilities. Distributor representatives and exhibitors are next expected to confer on the plan.

Kuykendall to Talk With Wehrenberg

ST. LOUIS, March 27.—Ed Kuykendall, president of the MPTOA, will confer here this week with Fred Wehrenberg, a member of the MPTOA executive committee, and others, after conferring with Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark in Washington on the consent decree.

Cummings Gets Award

MIAMI, March 27.—Irving Cummings, 20th-Fox director has been awarded the Thomas A. Edison Foundation's Gold Medal for outstanding achievement in the arts and sciences in 1943, in connection with the film industry's 50th anniversary.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 27

BARNEY BALABAN, president of Paramount, arrived here today from the East for Paramount partner conferences.

•

Carl Leserman, United Artists general sales manager, and Walter Gould, UA foreign sales head, arrived here today from New York.

•

Vincente Minnelli will direct M-G-M's "Yolanda and the Thief," South American musical starring Fred Astaire.

•

Herman Robbins, president of National Screen, left here today for the East.

•

William Piece today resigned from the Universal publicity department.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
DANNY KAYE
"UP IN ARMS"
Dinah Shore • Constance Dowling
In Technicolor Released thru RKO
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. Circle 6-4600

Held Over 2nd Week



RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
NOW PLAYING
Maria Montez • Jon Hall
Turhan Bey
'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
1st N. Y. Showing
RED SKELTON
The Brooklyn Dodgers
'WHISTLING in BROOKLYN'
IN PERSON
WILL OSBORNE
and
ORCHESTRA
OTHER BIG ACTS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

"THE FIRST TRIBUTE"

Universal extends its congratulations to Charles K. Feldman for his production, "FOLLOW THE BOYS." The story behind this production, in our opinion far exceeds in importance the fact that it will undoubtedly be one of the industry's most glowing successes.

It is important to know that "FOLLOW THE BOYS" is the first picture to demonstrate the heroic job that has been accomplished by the motion picture industry, as well as by all branches of show business on behalf of the war effort.

"FOLLOW THE BOYS" is the dramatic story of the Victory Committee but more than that it is the eloquent drama of show business itself.

IT IS SHOW BUSINESS' TRIBUTE TO SHOW BUSINESS!

"RED CROSS DRIVE! COLLECT AT EVERY PERFORMANCE EVERY DAY. MARCH 23 THROUGH 29."

CHARLES K. FELDMAN

presents

"Follow the Boys"

Starring

GEORGE RAFT • VERA ZORINA

Guest stars in the order of their appearance

JEANETTE MacDONALD
ORSON WELLES' Mercury Wonder Show
MARLENE DIETRICH
DINAH SHORE
DONALD O'CONNOR
PEGGY RYAN
W. C. FIELDS
THE ANDREWS SISTERS
ARTUR RUBINSTEIN
CARMEN AMAYA AND HER COMPANY
SOPHIE TUCKER
DELTA RHYTHM BOYS
LEONARD GAUTIER'S BRICKLAYERS

These famous bands

TED LEWIS AND HIS BAND
FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CHARLIE SPIVAK AND HIS ORCHESTRA
LOUIS JORDAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA

with Grace McDonald • Charles Butterworth • Martha O'Driscoll • Charley Grapewin • Elizabeth Patterson
Maxie Rosenbloom • Regis Toomey

And, Appearing in the Hollywood Victory Committee Sequence

MARIA MONTEZ
SUSANNA FOSTER
LOUISE ALLBRITTON
ROBERT PAIGE
ALAN CURTIS
LON CHANEY
GLORIA JEAN
ANDY DEVINE
TURHAN BEY
EVELYN ANKERS
NOAH BEERY, JR.
GALE SONDERGAARD
RAMSAY AMES
PETER COE
NIGEL BRUCE
THOMAS GOMEZ
LOIS COLLIER
SAMUEL S. HINDS
LOUISE BEAVERS
CLARENCE MUSE

Directed by EDDIE SUTHERLAND
Produced by CHARLES K. FELDMAN
Associate Producer, ALBERT L. ROCKETT

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

"RED CROSS DRIVE! COLLECT AT EVERY PERFORMANCE EVERY DAY. MARCH 23 THROUGH 29."

Find Solution for Draft Problem of Raw Stock Workers

(*Continued from page* 1)

tion of deferments would apply to all men up to 38.

Because of the length of time required to attain a high degree of skill [illegible] men engaged in rawstock manufac[illegible], Burrows explained, the companies have very few key men under 26, and in the case of those it is believed that the endorsement of Army, Navy or WPB officials will be sufficient to secure a continued deferment.

The war agencies also are to compile lists of war activities and of specific establishments in those activities in which key registrants under the age of 26 may be considered for occupational deferment. The film manufacturers have been asked to develop such lists and submit them to Burrows as the basis for official listings.

The withdrawal from industry of men under 26 is not expected to interfere with the production of 35mm film, Burrows said.

General Precision Nets $1,225,907

(*Continued from page* 1)

standing, compared with $2.16 per share earned in 1942.

The income report included $371,200 received in dividends on the company's $5,016,816 investment in 185,600 shares of 20th Century-Fox Film common.

Sales by all GPE subsidiaries for the year came to $20,964,525, compared to $17,317,494 in 1942; other income, including the 20th-Fox dividend, was $450,999. Deductions from the gross included $14,041,338 for cost of sales, $2,639,849 for expenses, $458,700 normal tax and surtax, $2,580,660 for excess profits tax, and $439,070 provision for renegotiation and adjustment of Federal taxes.

The 1943 balance sheet shows current assets of $12,415,147 and current liabilities of $5,003,145. Investments, postwar refund, capital assets and deferred charges bring the total assets up to $19,252,617, which, after deductions for mortgage notes payable, deferred credits, reserves, etc., leaves a surplus of $13,842,300.

Earle G. Hines, president of the company, stated: The financial statements include the assets and liabilities of Motion Picture Engineering Corp., a new subsidiary.

Selznick's Talent Agency to Continue

(*Continued from page* 1)

tors, who are David O. Selznick, his brother; an uncle, Charles H. Sachs of Pittsburgh, and the Bank of America. David Selznick has been appointed special administrator by the court.

Lester W. Roth, Myron Selznick attorney, stated last night that Selznick's will names as beneficiaries his daughter, Joan Selznick and his mother, Mrs. Florence A. Selznick. There are bequests to a number of individuals and personal effects go to his brother, David, and to his daughter, while a separate trust fund makes provision for a number of charities.

Hays Stresses Rise in Escapist and War Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

problem" class, which underscored Hays' statement that "the screen would fail lamentably if it did not alert the vast millions at home to the conditions under which we must fight this war."

"Escapist" comedies rose from 65 to 109, with musicals jumping from 30 to 67, pointing up Hays' further statement that "there are no better morale builders than films of this character." Speaking of programs for men in the service, he added, "It is easy to see why they prefer entertainment that brings laughter, music and fun, memories of home."

The PCA's figures recorded a sharp drop in "melodramas" during the year, from 215 to 87. Westerns went down from 112 to 83; crime features from 17 to 7.

"Coming pictures," Hays predicted, "will meet every problem of morale, recreation and information. His report pointed out that during 1943 Hollywood supplied films to an audience of 90,000,000 weekly in 16,793 theatres of this country, to 6,000 Latin-American theatres and to thousands in other nations. Hays cited the industry's gift of 9,507 prints of 218 current features to men in combat areas. Speaking of 708 training films produced by the Army to date, with the industry contributing 108 on a non-profit basis, Hays said: "The use of films in military training has reduced training time by 40 per cent."

502 Newsreels Shown

"During the year," Hays continued, "502 reels of news were flashed on this country's screens. More than 4,000 separate pictorial subjects, on 1,446 different events, were covered. Of these, 39.8 per cent portrayed activities of the fighting forces of the United Nations."

With regard to censorship, Hays said, "Notwithstanding war-time pressures toward the relaxation of regulations, it is a pleasure to report the successful operations of the Production Code Administration." He added that 16 scripts, rejected originally, were approved after revisions, as were seven completed features. Only one feature, undisclosed, was finally rejected entirely. Of the 417 passed by the PCA, 256 were from MPPDA member companies, 141 were from non-member companies, and 20 were foreign. Also approved were 449 shorts, 440 of them from member companies.

42,000 Titles Registered

The MPPDA title registration bureau, the report added, now contains 42,000 titles, having registered 2,770 new ones during the year.

Hays announced that the serious problem of freezing of foreign revenues was now resolved except for restrictions in China and temporarily in North Africa. "With reference to foreign censorship," he added, "the chief excuse for censorship in neutral countries now stems from their desire to avoid offense to the Axis."

Also pointed out was the fact that "a major development in the direction of a free and unhampered exchange of film products" between the U. S. and England came during the year with the termination of the Film Agreements, resulting in the removal of special restrictions on the transfer of film rental and the complete defreezing of American companies' funds in the United Kingdom."

In this connection, Hays added, "The basis of motion picture competition within our own country or between producing nations is artistic worth. The only measure of acceptance is the approval of the motion picture audience. The motion picture industry of the United States asks no more than the opportunity to compete on this basis for world screen time, and our market offers no less to the film entertainment of other nations."

Turning to the subject of classroom films, Hays reported that in 1943 the American Council on Education invited industry leaders to a series of conferences, which resulted in a five-year program calling for the establishment of a U. S. commission on motion pictures in education. He added that in the past four years over 6,000 additional 16mm reels have been placed in educational film libraries.

Speaking of the coming conversion from war to peace, Hays referred to the film as "a plowshare as well as a sword. It will be more important," he said, "to rebuild the cultural and moral elements of society than merely to replace brick and stone, and this is a challenge which the films can and must help to meet." As for technical possibilities in the postwar era, he mentioned researches now being carried on and plans being made in the fields of electronics, television, etc.

Completing ten years of self-regulation under the present Advertising Code, Hays said no press books were discarded in 1943 and there were no major advertising copy derelictions.

Last year the administration discarded or revised 650 of 82,845 Hollywood stills submitted, 18 of 1,541 New York stills, 253 of 9,243 advertisements, four of 8,487 publicity stories, eight of 6,377 exploitation ideas, three of 5,562 miscellaneous accessories, 49 of 1,458 posters and five of 405 trailers. Approved were 310 press books from member companies and 126 from non-members.

To Discuss International Film Exchange Further

Among matters briefly discussed at yesterday's annual meeting of the MPPDA here, and slated for further consideration when the meeting reconvenes April 14, was the extension of the association's interest in "a free and unhampered exchange of film products between the nations of the world, and adequate representation abroad in collaboration with the foreign departments of the members of the association to encourage this." Details of the foreign departments' plan for industry representation in the strategic world capitals were published exclusively in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 23.

Fabian Buys Half Interest In W. and V.

(*Continued from page* 1)

chairman of the board, and Samuel Rosen, treasurer.

Vincent yesterday admitted to MOTION PICTURE DAILY consummation of Fabian's purchase, although he declined to disclose the purchase price. However, it was learned elsewhere that of several groups which had made recent bids for the Wilmer estate's half-ownership, one bid reputedly set at $2,000,000 was made by a group headed by Harry E. Edington, Coast talent agent and producer, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY March 21.

Fabian on his own operates about 35 theatres in New York State, and in these there will be no interlocking corporate tieup with Wilmer and Vincent. However, from Vincent's disclosure that the Fabian and Wilmer and Vincent circuits would "operate very closely," there is seen the probability that buying and booking will be done in combination for both groups, forging single buying power for some 57 theatres.

Will Share Management

Fabian will share actual management of the W. and V. group equally with Vincent. The latter is understood to be uninterested in several offers made to him by various groups for the sale of his share of the properties. There will be no other W. and V. management change.

The Fabian deal is the largest transaction in independent exhibition in several years; in affiliated circuit operations there have been no turnovers of any size since the consent decree bound the majors to refrain from expansion without Governmental approval.

Trade Must Cure Own Ills: Rodgers

(*Continued from page* 1)

together find the ways and means whereby the industry can progress without unnecessary restrictions.

"Of course there have been abuses that can and should be corrected," Rodgers said. "Yet, in doing so, if the entire structure is to be destroyed in its accomplishment by restrictive regulation unecessary for the vast majority, then each vital stem of a great industry will suffer proportionately."

Rodgers emphasized that he was speaking not for his company but as an individual "who deplores the lack of unity of thought when it is so evident all branches have the identical objective."

Rodgers said that the company's recent action in announcing a new release block of only five features does not indicate a change in its policy of releasing larger blocks. The company, he said, will have only five features completed and available for trade showing by the end of April. Discussing forthcoming M-G-M product, Rodgers described some of it as "the best of its kind ever to come from our studio." Seven M-G-M features to be released in the next six months will be in Technicolor, he said.

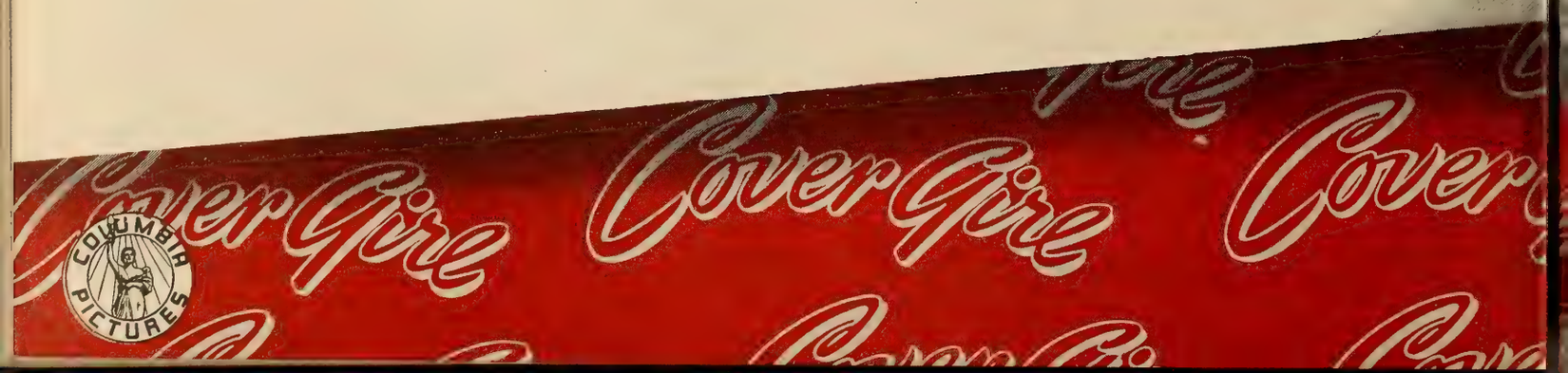
The response o

the opening en

Cover Girl in 26

beyond anything

ever experienced



the Public to gagements of Key Cities is Columbia has in its history!



Rita Hayworth
Gene Kelly

Cover Girl

in
TECHNICOLOR

Music by **JEROME KERN** *Lyrics by* **IRA GERSHWIN**

with Lee Bowman • Phil Silvers • Jinx Falkenburg
and **THE COVER GIRLS**
15 of America's Most Beautiful Women

Screen Play by VIRGINIA VAN UPP Directed by CHARLES VIDOR



JANE WITHERS



My Best Gal

with JIMMY LYDON

FRANK CRAVEN

FORTUNIO BONANOVA

FRANKLIN PANGBORN

ANTHONY MANN — Director

Screenplay by Olive Cooper — Earl Felton

Original Story by Richard Brooks

A Republic Picture

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 62 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1944 TEN CENTS

5,000 Houses Extend Drive For Red Cross

Overall Participation Up To Record 15,000

By late today, it is anticipated, more than 5,000 theatres throughout the country will have agreed to extend Red Cross collections to include the coming weekend, WAC campaign headquarters reported here yesterday. The extension, requested as a means of assuring needed extra dollars, has brought a deluge of acceptance telegrams to the War Activities Committee here, 3,000 arriving by early yesterday afternoon.

Typical acceptance wires were those of Charles P. Skouras, in replying from Los Angeles on behalf of some 600 National theatres under his jurisdiction, who wired: "The campaign in this territory has been set up to continue for a second weekend. Col-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Projectionists and Others Give Terms

Studio projectionists, make up artists and hair stylists presented their proposals for a new contract to the producers at yesterday's sessions here between the producers' representatives and IATSE officials at the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact. Further meetings were also held with representatives of the sound technicians.

Main stumbling block in the negotiations with individual IATSE studio lo-

(*Continued on page 7*)

'Community' Vault For Exchanges Here

Distributor companies who have their exchanges in the Film Center Building, 630 Ninth Ave., will avail themselves of a "community" fireproof film vault into which scrap film will be deposited once daily, it was learned yesterday. The vault, in line with the recommendation by Manuel A. Mojarrieta, Fire Department inspector of combustibles, was agreed to as the result of a conference between distributor representative and the Fire Department.

'Priority Entertainment' For Returning Wounded

Plans for full-scale entertainment of returning American wounded servicemen have been completed here by USO-Camp Shows, with players of screen, stage, radio and other media of the show world routed to hospitals for the wounded and sick throughout the country.

Servicemen confined to Army and Navy general hospitals in the United States will henceforth get a priority on entertainment.

USO-Camp Shows, in coordination with the special service division of the War Department, has inaugurated a "Hospital Circuit," over which specially selected and produced units will travel, bringing directly to the hospitalized GI's a new show at least once very two weeks.

Both ambulatory and bed patients will see all shows. They are being designed for performance both in

(*Continued on page 4*)

'Absenteeism' at Exchanges Growing

Absenteeism of employees of several companies' exchanges throughout the country is becoming a growing cause of concern, it was learned here yesterday.

The situation, which has shown marked increase in the past six months, recently reached a stage where, it was said, in the San Francisco exchange of one company, total time lost was equivalent to the complete shutdown of the branch for one week. Some home office executives of exchange operations, while admitting existence of the problem, would not permit public identification of their companies with it.

Absenteeism ranging from one to

(*Continued on page 7*)

Fitzgerald Chairman On 50th Anniversary

H. J. Fitzgerald, head of Fox-Wisconsin Theatres, with headquarters at Milwaukee, has volunteered to serve as chairman of the exhibitors' committee for the 50th anniversary of motion pictures, to be observed by the industry next month.

Fitzgerald is scheduled to arrive in New York tomorrow to make plans for exhibitor participation in the anniversary and to set up a theatre operators' committee.

'Arms' at $100,000 In 4th Week, Best At B'way Houses

Business at downtown New York first-run theatres continues above average this week with hold-overs holding up effectively.

The fourth week of "Up in Arms" and a stage show at Radio City Music Hall will gross approximately $100,000, winding up a profitable run. A product jam and the decision of Music Hall officials to bring in the "Easter Show" this week will end the run of this film today. Columbia's "Cover Girl" and the theatre's annual "Glory of Easter" show will take over tomorrow.

A new 20-year house record is expected to be set by "See Here, Private Hargrove," at the Astor, on its first week; $25,800 is claimed for the first five days, and the house expected to

(*Continued on page 7*)

Para. Radio Policy Unchanged: Lewis

Paramount, one of the largest users of radio to promote its films, has not embarked upon any policy of limiting the appearances of its stars and featured players on network radio programs, nor has the company increased the asking prices of its film scripts for radio use, Martin Lewis, radio head of Paramount's studio publicity department, said here yesterday.

Reports of a rift between studios and radio arose several weeks ago when Warners announced a new policy barring clearance of its scripts for radio broadcasting until at least four or five months after release, and increased prices on scripts cleared for commercial radio programs. Warners

(*Continued on page 6*)

Chicago Trust Suit Will Start April 3

CHICAGO, March 28.—Trial before jury of a suit filed by Thomas A. Murray, owner of the Thalia Theatre, claiming $1,000,000 damages for alleged violations of the anti-trust laws by Balaban and Katz and distributors is scheduled to begin April 3 before Federal Judge William Campbell.

All Keys Set For Saturday Tax Increase

Frisco and Phila. Among Last to Set Scales

San Francisco, Philadelphia, Dallas and Omaha are among the last of the large cities to effect new, higher scales of theatre admissions for enactment after 12:01 A.M. Saturday, April 1, to conform with the new Federal ticket tax of one cent on each five, and, in many cases, simultaneously raising admissions beyond the tax rise to preclude using pennies where a round-figure price is permitted.

Exhibitors in many concencentrated areas worked together in arriving at new price scales, competing first runs frequently agreeing to uniformity for their operations and subsequents building their new advances similarly, according to

(*Continued on page 7*)

London's Film Row Hit Hard by Bombs

LONDON, March 28—It is now possible to disclose that Wardour Street, this city's "Film Row," was also damaged in a recent raid by bombs falling near the Kinematograph Renters Society Building, and causing casualties also to another building opposite housing General Film Distributors and the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association headquarters. Several offices in addition to that of GFD have been

(*Continued on page 7*)

House Gets Bill to Drop Daylight Time

Washington, March 28.—Representative Cannon (Mo.) today introduced in Congress a bill calling for the abandonment of daylight saving war time, which was adopted in 1942.

Cannon said his bill was prompted by protests from almost every state, with Midwest farmers the most bitter critics. Setting clocks ahead has frequently affected theatre business, prolonged daylight causing many to remain outdoors.

Personal Mention

HAL HORNE, 20th Century-Fox advertising and publicity director, is scheduled to leave for the Coast on Friday.

•

HOWARD LESIEUR, sales promotion and production manager at the United Artists home office for 12 years, has passed his physical examination and is awaiting induction into the Armed Forces sometime next month.

•

MICHAEL DALY, owner of the Daly circuit, Connecticut, left yesterday with his daughter, PEGGY, to visit his son, FRANK, at school in Gainesville, Ga., and his nephew, PVT. THEODORE DILORENZO, at Camp McClellan, Ala.

•

ABE and JOE FEINBERG, bookers of theatre acts, yesterday received the certificate of merit from USO-Camp Shows for services in behalf of the Armed Forces here and overseas.

•

ARTHUR SACHSON, assistant sales manager for Warners, and JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division sales manager, will be in Boston today. They will return to New York tomorrow.

•

MANNY REINER, formerly with Paramount's home office short subjects department, has returned to New York to enter the Armed Forces after 14 months with the OWI in Iceland.

•

ROY HAINES, Southern and Western division sales manager for Warners, has returned from a tour of the Midwestern and Southern territories.

•

SAM. FORGOSTON, advertising production manager of M-G-M, and MRS. FORGOSTON recently became the parents of an 8½ pound baby boy.

•

J. L. ETHERIDGE, owner of the Majestic Theatre, Joliet, Ill., and the Luxe, East Peoria, Ill., was inducted into the Army this week.

•

MARJORIE MORROW, Warner talent bureau head in New York, has returned from a three-week Southern trip.

•

MARCEL BRAZEE, Warner assistant zone manager in the Milwaukee area, is on the West Coast.

•

MOE SILVER, Pittsburgh zone manager for Warner Theatres, is in New York for a few days.

•

JACK GOLDSTEIN, 20th Century-Fox Eastern publicity manager has returned to the home office from Florida.

•

LEO J. MCCARTHY, PRC general sales manager, will leave for the Coast tomorrow.

•

DAVE EPSTEIN is here from the Coast.

•

BERNIE LEVY of Proven Pictures, Hartford, is in Boston.

•

RUBE JACKTER has returned from Florida.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, March 28

THE De Havilland-Warner contract embroglio is an electric topic of discussion in this area. It represents a Hollywood situation in the strict sense, yet the ramifications may leap the outer boundaries to effect a landing in the business of distribution and exhibition.

Last Fall Miss De Havilland brought suit against the producer, seeking court-approved confirmation of her stand that her seven-year contract had expired May 5, last, as per the calendar. Her legal approach was that she was hired for seven years and remained in Warner employ for the full length of time; that most of the suspensions on which Warner bases the opposing view traced to her refusal to accept roles which she deemed unsuitable for her talents.

■

Cumulatively, and for whatever reason or reasons, the suspension period covered 26 weeks. Warner's legal attitude takes into account that half year, asserts the player did no work during those weeks, maintains she owes the studio the added time. Miss De Havilland says seven years are seven years on anyone's calendar and, while Warner does not deny the calendar, it insists, nevertheless, those seven years were designed to be working years, whereas Miss De H. worked only six and one-half.

■

A Superior court judge here, as already reported, has ruled for the actress. The judge determined the Warner interpretation might well result in the indefinite extension of a contract "even to the point of constituting life bondage for the employe." Warner is appealing and is also on record with official warning to competitive studios that the issue cannot be resolved finally until a higher court declares itself.

There the matter stands while the legal joustings take position for attack and counter attack.

■

It is extremely interesting, however, to note that it is no accident for unspecified producers to have lined up on the Warner side. This makes it quite apparent the issue reaches beyond the specifics of this single case and into the broader arena of producer - player relationships. This, too, is understandable enough because rifts and tiffs between employer and employe are common here and because a situation involving Warners today may involve some other producer tomorrow.

It is in the normal course of developments, similarly, that the Screen Actors Guild lines up on the side of Miss De Havilland. Its reasons are the same as those of the unspecified producers, in reverse order.

■

Those who look beyond, on the other hand, are quite intrigued by the outcome of this impasse in the light of those well-known players, directors and producers who are now in the armed services. If the De Havilland decision stands, the precedent it establishes is expected to have a general application.

If Star A, therefore, fulfills his contractual obligation by the calendar, he would be a free agent when he returns from the wars. If his inactivity in production is piled on the calendar expiration of his contract, he won't be regardless of when he returns to Hollywood for peacetime work.

■

Out of this, there is understood to be in rapid formulation a reappraisal of many of the pacts now held by men in the various services. These re-evaluations are predicated on pre-war box-office values and in an effort to judge post-war values. Where a studio convinces itself it wants to keep a contract in effect, the reputed policy-in-the - making provides for an adjustment of existing agreements.

All of this makes it apparent how distributors and exhibition, as the innocents, may get involved. If Miss De H. wins her case finally, some starring alignments in Hollywood probably will reflect change. A player now with one company conceivably would join another. His or her pictures, of course, would go off the old program and into a new one. Thus, distribution would feel the effects. Thus, exhibition would feel the effects because different theatres would be playing that performer's attractions.

■ ■

They are saying: If NBC has advanced television to the point where only a 16 x 20 inch image is possible, no wonder Niles Trammell declares his company has eyes fixed on the home field.

Can you imagine that size image on the Music Hall stage?

Coming Events

March 29—Paramount theatre partners and home office executives start meetings in Hollywood.
April 1—New Federal ticket tax effective.
April 3—Universal board meeting and election of officers, N[illegible] York.
April 5—Atlas Corp. annual stockholders' meeting, Wilmington, Del.
April 10—RKO testimonial dinner for Charles Boasberg, Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland.
April 14—Episcopal Actors' Guild annual entertainment, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York.
April 17—M-G-M lunch for Louis C. Ingram, new Memphis branch manager, Hotel Peabody, Memphis.
April 30-May 10—Motion picture division drive for Catholic Charities, New York.
April 31—Chicago Variety Club "Pioneers' Night" dinner, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago.

Paramount Partners To See New Product

HOLLYWOOD, March 28.—New Paramount product will be screened nightly at the meetings starting tomorrow at Arrowhead Springs Hotel for Paramount home office executives and theatre partners at which general exhibition policy will be discussed.

Among those attending are Barney Balaban, Y. Frank Freeman, Sam Dembow, Leonard Goldenson, Karl Hoblitzelle, R. J. O'Donnell, John Balaban, A. H. Blank, Leon Netter and E. V. Richards.

Wallace Worlsey, 65, Was Actor, Director

HOLLYWOOD, March 28.—Funeral services for Wallace Worlsev, 65, former actor and director in the industry's early days, will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery tomorrow. He directed many of the late Lon Chaney's films including "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

Worlsey, who was a member of the Lambs and Players, is survived by his widow and a son, Wallace, Jr., an assistant director.

Benny Singer, 73, WB Executive, Dies

HOLLYWOOD, March 28.—Benny Singer, 73, industry pioneer and for the past 15 years an executive in Warners studio location department, died here today.

Funeral services will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Friday. He is survived by his sister, Mrs. Peggy Cokayne, Hollywood writer.

WB to Show 'Glory'

Warners' "Uncertain Glory" will be nationally tradeshown Monday, April 10.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

MEDALS
FROM THE PRESS!



JOURNAL-AMERICAN

"See here, general public, 'Private Hargrove' is a major objective on the Broadway film front! A merry motion picture! All laughs! Hilarious!"
—*Jim O'Connor*

DAILY NEWS

"See here, everyone, it's Pvt. Hargrove . . . full of laughs...typical-American! There is a lot to laugh at...and that's what people want!"
—*Wanda Hale*

TIMES

"Fun and frolic! Rough and tumble comedy! A strictly happy picture about a chuckle-headed kid! Gay and entertaining!"
—*Bosley Crowther*

HERALD TRIBUNE

"The book was amusing! The picture is even more richly comic! Deft and delightful! Singularly satisfying! Walker does a brilliant job!"
—*Howard Barnes*

MIRROR

"One of the funniest pictures to come out of Hollywood in years! Worth a major battle victory as a morale builder!"
—*Lee Mortimer*

WORLD-TELE—POST

"Full of good jokes... Loud laughter!"
—*Alton Cook*

"Full of good humor! Lively! Fresh quality!"
—*Archer Winsten*

M-G-M LAUGH HIT!



B'WAY & 45th ST.



with
ROBERT WALKER
As "PRIVATE HARGROVE"
and DONNA REED
KEENAN WYNN
ROBERT BENCHLEY
RAY COLLINS • CHILL WILLS • Screen Play by Harry Kurnitz
Based Upon the Book by Marion Hargrove • Directed by WESLEY RUGGLES • Produced by GEORGE HAIGHT • An M-G-M Picture

NEW ALL-TIME ASTOR RECORD!

48 in Work, Production High for Year

HOLLYWOOD, March 28.—Production hit a new high mark for the year during the week with eight new ones started and six finished, to bring the total on studio stages to 48. The previous week witnessed the beginning of the upswing with 15 started, six finished and 46 in work. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "Louisiana Hayride" with Judy Canova, Richard Lane, George McKay, Minerva Urecal, Matt Willis, Byron Foulger, Walter Baldwin.

Shooting: "The Impatient Years," "Soldiers in Slacks," "America's Children," "Mr. Winkle Goes to War."

Finished: "Calling All Stars."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Gold Town," "Mrs. Parkington," "The Picture of Dorian Gray," "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Secrets in the Dark," "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "National Velvet."

Monogram

Started: "Leave It to the Irish" with James Dunn, Wanda McKay, Ralph Lewis, Dick Purcell.

Shooting: "Call of the Jungle," "Hangman's Law."

Paramount

Shooting: "Practically Yours," "Bring On the Girls."

P.R.C.

Started: "Untitled Buster Crabbe" with Buster Crabbe, Evelyn Finley, Al St. John.

Shooting: "Waterfront," "Minstrel Man."

RKO-Radio

Shooting: "The Falcon in Mexico," "Mademoiselle Fifi," "Cocktails for Two," "None But the Lonely Heart," "Heavenly Days," "Manhattan Serenade," "Belle of the Yukon," (International); "Casanova Brown," (International).

Republic

Started: "Song of Nevada" with Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Mary Lee, Thurston Hall, John Eldridge, "Sons of the Pioneers," "Secrets of Scotland Yard" with Edgar Barrier, Stephanie Bachelor, C. Aubrey Smith, Lionel Atwill. "The Girl Who Dared" (no cast assigned).

Shooting: "Call of the Rockies."

Finished: "Marshal of Reno," "Call of the South Seas," "Goodnight, Sweetheart."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Take It or Leave It" with Phil Baker, Marjorie Massow, Edward Ryan.

Shooting: "Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Wing and a Prayer," "The Keys of the Kingdom."

Finished: "Sweet and Low-down."

United Artists

Shooting: "Here Is Your War" (Lester Cowan). "Abroad With the Yanks."

Universal

Started: "Twilight on the Prairie" with Connie Haines, Eddie Quillan, Leon Errol, Vivian Austin, Johnny Downs.

Shooting: "Dead Man's Eyes," "The Ghost Catchers," "The Climax."

Finished: "Murder in the Blue Room."

Warners

Shooting: "The Very Thought of You," "The Conspirators," "To Have and Have Not," "The Doughgirls," "Cinderella Jones."

'Priority Entertainment' For Returning Wounded

(Continued from page 1)

recreation halls and in streamlined style in the wards. Many of the units will be headlined by screen and other stars and supported by screen, musical, comedy, dancing and novelty vaudeville acts.

Some will be all-star shows, of two or more outstanding entertainers, capable of both recreation hall entertainment as well as making all-important visits to sick and wounded in wards. These particular all-star groups are to be known as "personality units"; and other hospital units will be composed of the best talent available, USO disclosed yesterday. Some units will perform all-variety shows, some will present complete classicals or concerts, and others will be a blend of variety-and-concert.

Already playing each general hospital once every three or four weeks are the 29 units on Camp Shows' 'Victory Circuit' and the 54 'Tabloid Troupes' on the 'Blue Circuit'. With the addition of the new special hospital units, servicemen in hospitals will have more "live talent" entertainment than any other soldier or sailor in this country. Film shows are additional.

First four 'Hospital Units' have already started on tour consisting of Unit 1, Ed Wynn, Wini Shaw, Diana Lure, Paul Lavarre & Brother, Pat Hill, and Michael Olivieri; (2) Gene Kelly, Kathryn Vernon, Charlotte Fayne, Charley Stuart, Russell Delmar, and Sidney Tuscher; (3) Trudy Marshall and Lynne Carver on a "personality tour," and (4) Leslie Brooks and Frank Sully, also on a "personality tour."

USO reports that increasing the volume of entertainment in the U. S. has no effect on Camp Shows' overseas programs, which now covers every military zone offshore and overseas, and which delivers to the War Department units at the rate of more than 25 monthly.

$125,000 to Promote 'Lady and Monster'

Key-city openings of Republic's "The Lady and the Monster" will be backed by more than $125,000 worth of cooperative advertising, radio spot announcements, and billboard-posting, the company reported here yesterday.

A special publicity campaign will be aimed to reach people of Czech and Slovak origin, inasmuch as Vera Hruba Ralston, the star, was former Czechoslovak figure-skating champion.

"The Lady and the Monster" is slated to open at the Hawaii Theatre, Los Angeles, tomorrow. Bookings are also set for the Translux, Boston, April 12; Rialto, Dallas, April 16, and Warfield, San Francisco, April 19.

Morros Acquires Stokowski Music

A deal for the publication by Boris Morros Music Co. of all of the symphonic arrangements of Leopold Stokowski has been closed, Morros announced here yesterday following his arrival from the Coast. Stokowski had refused all earlier requests for permission to publish his arrangements, it was said.

In addition, Morros Music Co. has closed for publication of arrangements by Serge Koussevitzky and has acquired rights to a large number of copyrights owned by Koussevitzky and now in the hands of the Nazis in Paris, to be reclaimed after the war.

Asks Connor Donors

CINCINNATI, March 28. — Maurice White, barker of the local Variety Club, has appealed for volunteer blood donations to continue transfusions for Barker Warren Connor of Altec, seriously ill in Holmes Hospital.

Richey, Maloney at MGM Theatre Lunch

M-G-M will hold an exhibitor luncheon today at the Coronada Hotel in St. Louis, Mo., where J. F. Willingham, former Memphis manager and recently appointed St. Louis branch manager, and Burtus Bishop, Jr., district manager, will be introduced to theatre owners in that territory, M-G-M's home office reported here.

Among those scheduled to attend are: John J. Maloney, Central sales manager with headquarters in Pittsburgh; Henderson M. Richey, home office exhibitor-relations head, and M. L. Simons, editor of the *Distributor*, from the home office. Richey will also visit M-G-M exchanges at Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Columbus on his way back to New York, while Simons will make stops at the Kansas City and Pittsburgh branches.

25 Pioneers Guests Of Chicago Variety

CHICAGO, March 28.—Local Variety's "Gay Nineties" banquet on Friday night at the Blackstone Hotel will honor 25 pioneers in the local film industry. Invitations have been accepted by oldtimers Sam Abrahams, Abe Bartelstein, Maurice Choynski, Norman Field, H. Goldson, George K. Spoor, Gus Kerosotas, Simon Simansky, Sam Levin, Frank Gazzola, A. W. Roth, V. U. Young, Ludwig Schindler, Tom Murray Harry Tague, Alfred Hamburger, Elizabeth Wetter, Sam Schiller, Frank Theilen, Harry Grampp, Edward Harris, Charles Fecher, Mort Singer, Frank Smith and Steven Bennis.

Fay Drops Vaudeville

PROVIDENCE, March 28.—Difficulties of wartime presentation of vaudeville has caused Edward M. Fay of Fay's Theatres here, to drop a 27-year-old policy of stage acts for straight films. 20th-Fox's "Song of Bernadette" will open April 7.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 28

WITH production of its 1944-45 shorts program set to start in May, Columbia will put the remaining four two-reelers on its current lineup into production within the next month.

•

Irving Cummings, producer-director, is conducting a talent hunt for an unknown player, who will receive a year's contract from Cummings. Sid Grauman will head the judges' committee.

•

Jean Negulesco has purchased a novel by Marthe Bibesco, "Roman Due Sergui le Pur," a story of a religious cult in Rumania after its eviction from Russia.

•

Lester Cowan's "This Is Your War," now in production for United Artists release, has been retitled "GI Joe."

•

Frank Sinatra has been signed by M-G-M to play the lead in "Anchors Aweigh." Joe Pasternak is producing and George Signey directing.

•

Director Sidney Franklin left today for New York.

•

Edward Golden, producer, is due in New York tomorrow.

Ned Armstrong and Blackford to Warners

G. E. Blackford, for the past eight years dramatic and motion picture editor of the New York *Journal-American*, and Ned Armstrng, with *PM* for two years, have joined Warners' home office publicity staff, to work with Larry Golob, Eastern publicity manager.

Blackford has handled amusement news on New York and out-of-town papers for 25 years. Armstrong was at one time press representative for the Shuberts, Brock Pemberton and other Broadway producers.

Evelove Promotes Weiser and Huston

HOLLYWOOD, March 28.—Alex Evelove, Warner studio publicity director, has promoted Marty Weiser, former exploitation man, to handle poster and advertising art, and Ralph Huston, for two years unit man and feature service editor, to copy and assignment chief. Huston will continue in charge of features along with his new duties.

100 Theatres Join in Rogers Rodeo Tieup

One hundred theatres in the Pittsburgh territory will tie in with Roy Rogers' appearances at the rodeo at Duquesne Gardens there beginning April 17, Republic announced here yesterday. Lead-off booking is Rogers' "Hands Across the Border," which opens at the Barry Theatre, Pittsburgh, April 5.

Similar promotions will be employed in Washington territory, when the actor appears at Uline Arena Park the week of April 25, and in Toronto, when he appears at the Maple Leaf Gardens the week of May 2.

STEADILY IMPROVED

THE PREFERENCE of cameramen and directors of photography for Eastman Films has a sound basis. In the face of wartime pressures, the exceptional quality of these films has been not merely maintained but steadily improved. Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., ***Distributors***
Fort Lee Chicago Hollywood

EASTMAN FILMS

'Marseille' Leads San Francisco with Healthy $29,400

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—"Passage to Marseille," paired with "Smart Guy," got a leading $29,400 at the Fox, followed by $28,400 at the Golden Gate for "Action in Arabia" with the Ritz Brothers on the stage. "Lady in the Dark" and "Coastal Command" hit $13,500 in a third week at the State. Weather was good.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 24-29:

"Ladies Courageous" (Univ.)
"Hi, Good Lookin'" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $14,800).
"Knickerbocker Holiday" (UA)
"Men on Her Mind" (PRC)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (20c-35c-60c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,000).
"Mad Miss Manton" (RKO)
WARFIELD—(2,680) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $22,100. (Average: $21,800).
"Action in Arabia" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (35c-55c-75c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $28,400. (Average: $25,000).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
"Smart Guy" (Mono.)
FOX—(5,000) (20c-35c-55c-75c-) 7 days. Gross: $29,400. (Average: $24,000).
"Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,740) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,600. (Average: $19,600).
"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
"Coastal Command" (RKO)
STATE—(2,306) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $12,-100).
"Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
"Rosie, the Riveter" (Rep.)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (20c-35c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Fox. Gross: $13,900. (Average: $11,600).

Theatres Can Set Own Television Use

Technical possibilities will permit "feeding" a motion picture theatre, by wire line, with a complete television show, B. Ray Cummings, vice-president in charge of engineering for Farnsworth radio and television, told members of the Television Press Club at a luncheon at the Blue Ribbon here yesterday.

Cummings, however, indicated that the direct "piping" of television programs into motion picture theatres might not be economically feasible although it is even now technically possible, although a circuit group of exhibitors in a large city could erect their own local television station and obtain their own channel for telecasts to their respective theatres. By having their own channel, theatres would receive television images broadcast by their own studios; they could use "live" talent as well as films to make up a complete television program for theatres, said Cummings.

Cummings said that television images can be carried within a city over a modified form of telephone cable and indicated that the cost of co-axial cable is not prohibitive.

WB Zone Meeting

W. Stewart McDonald, Warner circuit comptroller, and James M. Brennan, assistant treasurer, will conduct a meeting of zone contact managers to be held this Friday and Saturday at the home office. In attendance will be more than a dozen representatives from the field, in addition to home office executives.

5,000 Theatres Extend Drive for the Red Cross

(*Continued from page* 1)

lections already show 100 per cent increase over last year," and Harry Arthur's St. Louis telegram, which stated: "Even though we started collections on the 16th in all Fanchon and Marco houses and our collections will run two weeks, we will still collect through the weekend of April 1-2."

All RKO theatres have received instructions from the home office to continue collections through next Sunday, and the same orders have gone out to Loew and Warner Circuit houses.

Among other circuits which will extend the campaign are Malco Theatres, Brandt, Smalley, Butterfield, Wometco, Crescent, Thalhimer, Goldberg Theatres, Schine, Cabart, Strand Enterprise, Skouras, Varbalow, Cinema Circuit, Century Cascade Theatres, Hunt, Bijou Amusement, Skirball Brothers, Wehrenberg, Interborough, Fabian, Atlantic Circuit, Standard Theatres, Shea, and Basil Circuit.

J. L. Cartwright, exhibitor chairman for Florida, wired from Tampa that all theatres in that state had lined up for a second weekend. Harry Lowenstein, Newark, advised that New Jersey had also swung into line.

All Broadway first-run houses as well as subsequents also will collect for a second weekend.

Pledges Still Come; Top 15,000; Record

Although theatre collections for the Red Cross drive have been under way for six days, pledges from exhibitors are still being received in large numbers at New York headquarters of the industry's drive. More than 275 additional theatres have been heard from, raising the total number of participants to well over 15,000 mark, setting new record for exhibitor cooperation in a wartime cause.

Randforce Collections Ahead of Last Year

Red Cross drive collections by the Randforce Circuit aggregated $14,000 for the four days from Thursday through Sunday, it was announced here yesterday. The result compares with collections of $10,000 by the circut for the 10 days of the industry Red Cross drive last year.

Loew's, Associates Present $48,328 Here

The Red Cross War Fund in New York City started off this week with a jump of $48,328 in donations from Loew's Theatres and other exhibitors who played the short subject, "America Speaks," released by Loew's. This was part of the $155,000 donation announced by the company last week.

Name Ship for Harris

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Twenty-six Variety Clubs throughout the nation will take part, during the Fifth War Loan drive, in the dedication of a Liberty Ship to be named for the late Senator John P. Harris, father of John H. Harris, manager of the Harris Amusement Co. and founder of American Variety. Negotiations with the U. S. Maritime Service were handled by Alexander Sherman, for Columbia Mideastern publicity-exploitation director.

Thomson Will Be First SAG Witness

HOLLYWOOD, March 28.—Kenneth Thomson, former executive secretary of the Screen Actors Guild, will be the first witness called by SAG counsel William Berger in the case opening before NLRB examiner Charles Ryan here tomorrow, to present testimony designed to disprove claims of the Screen Players Union that Class "B" SAG players are discriminated against and neglected.

Thomson will reveal the Guild's activities in investigating and bringing about the indictment of Willie Bioff, whose name was injected into the hearing by SPU witnesses. George Murphy, vice-president of SAG, will follow Thomson on the stand in the absence of William Cagney, president.

SPU originally filed a petition for a hearing by the NLRB on a Class "B" bargaining agency election but have broadened its scope in an effort to include bit players, character players, stuntmen and others in the autonomous union sought by the SPU, a guild spokesman charged. Records of the studios and Central Casting will be introduced by SAG to show the exact percentage of "B" players doing bit parts, he said.

One Objectionable, Eight Are Approved

M-G-M's "Broadway Rhythm" has been rated Class B, objectionable in part, by the Legion of Decency, because of "suggestive dance and costuming." Eight other films were approved.

In Class A-1, for general patronage, were "Jamboree," Republic; "The Pinto Bandit," PRC; "Two-Man Submarine," Columbia, and "The White Cliffs," M-G-M. In Class A-2, for adults, were "The Amazing Mr. Forest," PRC; "Days of Glory," RKO; "Her Primitive Man," Universal, and "Story of Dr. Wassell," Paramount.

Moynahan Promoted

The promotion of James Moynahan to chief publicity writer of March of Time was disclosed here this week by MOT's advertising-publicity director P. A. Williams. Moynahan, formerly attached to MOT's London and Paris branches as a script writer, has been with the New York office since 1942.

Jensen Rites Held

LOS ANGELES, March 28.—Funeral services were held here yesterday for Henry C. Jensen, 84, old-time exhibitor in this territory, who operated the Raymond, Palace Grand, Glendale and later the Hollyway and Melrose in Hollywood. Surviving are his widow and a son.

Warners Reopen Two

ATLANTIC CITY, March 28.—Warner Bros. will reopen the Earle Theatre on Saturday with a permanent motion picture policy. The Virginia, another Warner house now closed, reopens Friday for the season.

Para. Radio Policy Unchanged: Lewis

(*Continued from page* 1)

averaged about six network plugs weekly for its films. For several years the company had been accepting an average of $750 for the use of a screen script by a half-hour radio program like the CBS Playhouse and $1,000 for an hour show like the "Lux Radio Theatre." Recently Warner asked an advertising agency for $5,000 for the script of "Destination Tokyo" and $3,000 for "One Way Passage." M-G-M also is understood to have asked higher prices recently, but Paramount, according to Lewis, has not changed its policy. Lewis is in New York for several days to arrange radio promotion for Paramount's "The Story of Dr. Wassell" and "The Hitler Gang" and is setting Paramount stars on radio programs to promote the films.

Hold Radio Depreciates Films

Warner policy, according to Alex Evelove, studio publicity head, is based on the belief that "in many instances a property representing great effort and investment depreciates to a marked degree in a mere half-hour broadcast, definitely detracting from its screen value to the exhibitor." Recently Paramount arranged for the broadcast of a series of "air previews" of unreleased pictures on the CBS Kate Smith program. A continuation of this policy has not been decided upon, according to Lewis.

In recent years the main commercial users of film scripts were the "Lux Radio Theatre" and the CBS Playhouse program. "Screen Guild Players" program is a package deal with proceeds going to motion picture relief funds so that the film companies permit use of their scripts on this program gratis.

Universal 'Revives' Vaudeville at Palace

Vaudeville came back to the Palace Theatre yesterday morning, brought back by Universal to promote Charles K. Feldman's "Follow the Boys." The affair started at midnight Monday with a broadcast from backstage in which stars of the picture participated. With Bill Stern as master of ceremonies, the program included George Raft, Zorina, Sophie Tucker, Ted Lewis and Joe Laurie, Jr.

Following the broadcast stars of the old Palace did turns once more, among them Irving Fisher, Joe Howard, Fred Stone, J. C. Nugent, Ella Shields, Fritzi Scheff, Leo Carillo, Smith and Dale, Ethel Levey and Buck and Bubbles. After the vaudeville, "Follow the Boys" was screened.

NBC to Operate Station for U. S.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced today that the Defense Plant Corp. had authorized a contract with the National Broadcasting Co. for the construction of broadcasting facilities at Dixon, Cal., at a cost of approximately $500,000.

The plant will be operated for the Government by NBC with title to the station remaining in the Defense Plant Corp.

Projectionists and Others Give Terms

(*Continued from page 1*)

cals, which have otherwise been harmonious, have been the attempts of the locals to introduce new job classifications and upgrade workers in all classifications, it was learned yesterday. Locals have been confining demands for wage increases to the amount which would bring them up to the allowable 15 percent under the "Little Steel" formula, which in most cases represents a five percent increase. It is generally accepted that the War Labor Board will approve these increases. However, the locals hope to get more money for most of their workers by the upgrading in classifications demands. Where grade designations do not exist within job classifications, it is understood that the IATSE locals are seeking to write them in. With a liberal policy of upgrading permitted, workers would not be limited to the "Little Steel" formula as far as increases are concerned, but would receive merit increases in being upgraded in a classification. Producers are understood to be resisting these classification demands along with the IATSE demands for sick leave with pay, and other general demands.

Other Four This Week

Accord has been reached between the producers and several IATSE locals, but all accords are subject to further negotiations, it was again emphasized at the close of yesterday's sessions by both IATSE and producer spokesmen. It is expected that the four remaining IATSE locals, representing property men, grips, electricians and laborers, will present their proposals before the end of this week.

'Absenteeism' at Exchanges Growing

(*Continued from page 1*)

three or more days per week is attributed in part to increased illness due to wartime conditions, to deliberate absence from the job, and to the holding of two jobs, the other in defense work.

Some companies would rather not discharge employees, it was disclosed, because of the manpower shortage and the minimum six-weeks time necessary for the training of new people, nor are they deducting wages for this time taken.

To alleviate this condition in some places salesmen have had to assist in exchanges in order to maintain deliveries of company product and Government films. Other exchange employees are working overtime up to as many as 20 hours per week.

Special 'Belle' Show

A preview of "The Memphis Belle," U. S. Air Force combat report released by Paramount for the Office of War Information, will be held today at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point for officers and cadets.

10 Weeks for 'Lady'

Paramount's "Lady in the Dark" has been set for ten weeks at the New York Paramount Theatre, the company announced here yesterday, claiming an all-time record for Paramount's Broadway showcase.

All Keys Set for Tax Increase on Saturday

(*Continued from page 1*)

field reports appearing variously in *Motion Picture Daily* since Congress passed the new tax bill over a Presidential veto.

Action this week by owners in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Dallas and Omaha practically rounds out exhibitor territorial decision on box office charges under the tax.

In San Francisco, a general price rise of ten cents all along the line is scheduled. Industry observers claim this will be among the highest increases at theatres in the country. Downtown evening first-runs will boost matinee tariffs of 35c and 55c to 45c and 65c, with evening prices advancing from 55c and 75c to 65c and 85c.

Golden Gate Scales

At the key Golden Gate theatre Saturday and Sunday night prices of 65c and 85c will be raised to 75c and 95c, while neighborhood and subsequent run houses will raise matinee prices from 30c to 40c, with evening scales increased from 40c to 50c. Two of the larger neighborhoods, the Royal and Alhambra which now get 45c nights, will go to 55c.

San Francisco's straight ten-cent rise compares to the five to ten-cent increase to be effected April 1 in most other places.

Theatre customers in Dallas will pay from three cents to five cents more for tickets when the amusement tax becomes operative Saturday. Interstate officials point out that most Dallas theatres have worked out new schedules to avoid the handling of pennies. There is a shortage there, too, of the coins. The public has resented them and the time consumed in change-making would offer serious problems in handling box-office traffic at peak hours, it is held.

To achieve a total admission cost in multiples of five cents, the net admission price in Interstate houses, according to R. J. O'Donnell, general manager of the circuit, will be raised in some cases and lowered in others. Where customers have paid 50 cents for tickets, meaning 45 cents and five cents tax, the price will be 55 cents meaning 46 cents net and nine cents tax. State of Texas tax starts at 50 cents. Tickets at 40 cents will be 43 cents or 44 cents, at 30 cents will be 35 cents, at 25 cents will be 30 cents, and at 20 cents will go to 25 cents. Other Texas circuits, and independents, will follow this schedule.

Warners' in Philadelphia

New scales at the central-city Philadelphia Warner theatres places weekday admissions at 40 cents until one P.M., 50 cents until six P.M. and 75 cents after six P.M. Saturday prices will be 45, 65 and 85 cents. Sunday and holiday prices are 65 and 85 cents.

Omaha's downtown first run houses will use a 44 cents-60 cents price scale as compared with the old scale of 40 cents-55 cents. Children's prices will be raised from 15 cents to 16 cents. Stage shows at the Orpheum will be raised from 50 cents and 65 cents to 60 cents and 70 cents.

$232,203 Philadelphia Taxes Paid in 2 Months

PHILADELPHIA, March 28.—First returns on local amusement taxes for the new year, the city treasurer reports, shows an increase over the corresponding period last year. For the first two months, local receipts were $232,203, compared to $229,686 for the first two months in 1943. The 1944 budget tax estimate for amusements is $1,400,000. Receipts for the full year in 1943 were $1,422,076.

30 Loew Houses Book 'Bell' at $1.10 Top

Thirty Loew's circuit theatres in the New York area have booked "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and at $1.10 top and, with few exception, will run the film seven days instead of their customary split week, Charles M. Reagan, Paramount's assistant general sales manager, reported here yesterday.

The film will open in the circuit's "de luxe" houses April 20 and follow in a second group April 27 and in a third on May 4. Other early 'Bell' bookings include five subsequent runs by Warners' Stanley group in the Philadelphia area.

Waterbury to 'Photoplay'

Ruth Waterbury, motion picture fan-paper editor, has joined the staff of *Photoplay* according to an announcement made here by Fred Sammis, the Macfadden magazine's editorial director. Until recently Miss Waterbury was editor of *Movieland*, published by Hillman Publications. Miss Waterbury will have headquarters in Hollywood.

Bill to Check OWI Reaches Committee

WASHINGTON, March 28. — The House rules committee today considered the Brown Resolution calling for a special committee to study Office of War Information motion picture, radio and news material pertaining to members of Congress, public officials and candidates for public office, but deferred action on the measure.

The committee heard OWI director Elmer Davis deny charges that the organization had disseminated any material attacking any member of Congress or public official. While the Brown Resolution has been explained as a "review" of OWI's activities, members opposing the investigation assert it would in effect exercise a censorship over the material released.

G. E. Television Plans

Postwar television plans of General Electric will be discussed by Dr. W. R. G. Baker, vice-president and head of G. E.'s electronics department, and other G. E. officials, at a luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here on April 6.

'Arms' at $100,000 In 4th Week, Best At B'way Houses

(*Continued from page 1*)

wind up the week with $35,000 or better. M-G-M's "The Heavenly Body" at the Capitol, with Jimmy Durante and Bonita Granville heading the stage show, is expected to gross above $70,000; $45,000 is claimed for the first four days. It will hold over. The week of "Whistling in Brooklyn" at the State is expected to yield about $30,000. Universal's "Her Primitive Man" will open a first-run showing at the State tomorrow.

Fifth week of "Lady in the Dark" at the Paramount with a stage bill headed by Xavier Cugat and band and Dean Murphy, will gross about $73,000, with the picture reportedly headed for a ten-week run there. "The Purple Heart" and a stage show headed by Count Basie and band and Carol Bruce and Zero Mostel will yield the Roxy about $68,000 on a third week and the bill will remain for a fourth and final week, with "Four Jills in a Jeep" to follow. The Strand will do about $42,000 on its third week with "Shine on, Harvest Moon," and a stage bill headed by Russ Morgan and band and Borrah Minnevitch and his "Harmonica Rascals." The show will hold over for a fourth and final week, with "Uncertain Glory" to follow.

'Bernadette' $45,000

"The Song of Bernadette" is expected to hit $45,000 in its ninth week at the Rivoli and will continue. The second week of "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves" is expected to yield the Palace $21,000; the film will hold over. The first week of "The Impostor" at the Criterion will bring approximately $22,000 and it will hold over. "Passage to Marseille" is headed for $20,500 in its sixth week at the Hollywood; it will continue.

Second week of "The Fighting Seabees" at the Globe might reach $15,000, and the picture will hold. The pace established by "Women in Bondage" at the reconditioned Central Theatre, now the Gotham, indicates $15,000 for the first week and it will stay another. Second week of "Voice in the Wind" at the Victoria is headed for $15,000 and it will hold for a third. The Rialto expects to gross $7,500 with "Tunisian Victory" and will bring Universal's "Weird Woman" on Friday.

London's Film Row Hit Hard by Bombs

(*Continued from page 1*)

damaged by fire including Anglo-American Film, Walt Disney, Ltd., and Columbia British Ltd.

The most serious effect has been the virtual destruction of Universal News' laboratories which, in conjunction with similar damage to Gaumont-British laboratories, reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY March 23, further threatened newsreel dislocation. However, the other reels have coordinated processing successfully. Despite the renewed blitz, London's theatre business was excellent.

Film Board Meet Off

The New York Film Board of Trade meeting scheduled to be held today has been postponed because of the illness of Louis Nizer, attorney and executive secretary of the board.

I'm the Leader in Swing Entertainment!

ANN MILLER

CHARLIE BARNET
and HIS ORCHESTRA

LOUIS ARMSTRONG
and HIS ORCHESTRA

ALVINO REY
and HIS ORCHESTRA

JAN GARBER
and HIS ORCHESTRA

GLEN GRAY
and HIS CASA LOMA ORCHESTRA

TEDDY POWELL
and HIS ORCHESTRA

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VOL. 55. NO. 63 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1944 TEN CENTS

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Studios Face Jurisdictional Union Battle

Struggle Looms Over Television Lighting

The outlook for the production of "live" television shows at Hollywood film studios threatens to hand the producers' union representatives now negotiating a new contract with IATSE representatives here and Pat Casey, one of their biggest problems. A. T. Dennison, business manager for Local 728, IATSE studio electricians union, indicated here last night that his union will demand jurisdiction over all lighting used in film studios for television.

Local 728 is one of the four remaining locals yet to present contract proposals to the producers' representatives, and Dennison made it clear that he means to insist that the studios give his local jurisdiction over all television lighting. American Federation

(*Continued on page 8*)

Wanger's Venereal Film Withdrawn

A two-reel film entitled "To the People of the United States," which was submitted for distribution to the War Activities Committee has been withdrawn.

The film was made at the instance of the United States Public Health Service under the direction of Surgeon General Thomas Parran, who appeared in the film. It was produced by Walter Wanger at the Universal Studio.

The film deals with the subject of venereal diseases. An advisory committee of the United States Public

(*Continued on page 8*)

ITOA State Control Bill Awaits Decree

Persuaded by "various industry leaders" to withhold action pending the outcome of negotiations on the new consent decree, the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York refrained from having introduced at the last session of the state legislature a proposed amendment to the general business law which provided for rigid state control of exhibitor-distributor relations, Milton Weisman, ITOA attorney said yesterday.

Weisman added that, if the amended

(*Continued on page 8*)

2,107 More Theatres Extend Red Cross Drive Collections

Responses from 2,107 more theatres indicating their intention to extend Red Cross theatre collections for a second weekend, this week, were received here yesterday at headquarters of the motion picture industry's 1944 Red Cross campaign, bringing the total to some 5,100 houses pledged to continue the drive beyond the original one-week period, which ended last night.

Among the additional circuits responding were the Walter Reade group of 42 houses in New Jersey; George Baillio's Southern Amusement Co., 33 houses in Louisiana; the 22 Sterling Theatres of John Danz, Seattle; M. & P. Theatres, New England Paramount partnership headed by Sam Pinanski, Boston, and others.

March J. Wolf, Indianapolis, exhibitor chairman for Indiana, wired Joseph Bernhard, national industry chairman for the drive, that he had contacted all theatres; Harold J. Fitz-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Wright Succeeds Thomson, Retired

Philip L. Thomson, director of public relations of Western Electric, will retire under the company's pension plan on April 1, after 41 years of service, and will be succeeded by Fred B. Wright, an executive of the company's distributing organization. Thomson is known in the film industry through his supervision of advertising and promotional activities of Western Electric from the beginning of sound films up to W.E.'s withdrawal from the industry several years ago. He has directed all of the

(*Continued on page 8*)

Exchange Workers Buy 10,575 Bonds

Exchange and franchise affiliates of the 11 national distributors and National Screen and Ross Service, accounted for the sale of 10,575 bonds in the Fourth War Loan drive through employe purchases, Ned E. Depinet, chairman of the War Activities Committee's distribution division disclosed here yesterday.

Bonds bought by 6,870 exchange workers are valued at $722,288 and are exclusive of those made by those workers to persons outside of the industry, as well as bond purchases by distributors' home office workers and by employes of New York independent exchanges, which are in a separate division.

Heart Attack Fatal To Mort H. Singer

CHICAGO, March 29.—Mort H. Singer, 67, president of the Mort Singer Theatre Corp., died of a heart attack in Henrotin Hospital here today following a week's illness.

A pioneer in exhibition in the Midwest and Northwest, Singer was formerly a Paramount partner in Minnesota. His present circuit, comprising 36 theatres, has houses in Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Dubuque, Marshalltown, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Omaha, Sioux City, and Waterloo, Iowa. His brother, William, is manager of the circuit's Brandeis Theatre in Omaha; and his son, Mort H. Singer, Jr., Los Angeles, was formerly with the Fox West Coast Theatres publicity department and joined Universal as an assistant director in 1941.

Singer is also survived by his wife,

(*Continued on page 8*)

William Fox Plans New Producing, Distributing Company, Coast Hears

Hollywood, March 29.—William Fox, founder and former head of Fox Film Corp., has set plans for the formation of a new producing-distributing company and has taken an option on a 1,500-acre tract at an unidentified location as a studio site on which construction will be started when authorization can be obtained and materials are available, the *Hollywood Reporter* said today.

Fox, who is en route to New York after a visit of several weeks here, could not be reached for comment.

The story said that Fox plans to make cooperative deals with exhibitors covering an entire year's product from the proposed company, and that profit-sharing deals will be made with creative principals, stress being placed on directors and writers, and with producers being eliminated entirely. An international organization for the distribution end is planned, it was said.

Kodak, Film Heads Meeting On Television

Eastman Explores Needs Of Postwar Stock

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

A group of Eastman Kodak executives from Rochester, N. Y., had a session with Paramount executives here yesterday and plan to confer with executives of other film companies today and tomorrow on their post war television plans and possible equipment needs.

Talks are described as being of an exploratory nature with the Eastman officials seeking to ascertain what types of equipment the companies might require for television and also to offer assistance in developing optical equipment and special film stock for television. Eastman Kodak is understood to be holding similar meet-

(*Continued on page 8*)

$1,450,000 ASCAP 1st Quarter 'Melon'

The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers will distribute royalties of approximately $1,450,000 for the first quarter of 1944, representing the largest quarter payment in the organization's history, some 500 ASCAP members were told at the organization's annual meeting at the Ritz-Carlton here yesterday.

Routine financial reports and discussion of ASCAP's impending revisions in membership classifications featured yesterday's session.

About 700 member and guests attended ASCAP's annual banquet at the Ritz-Carlton last night. Deems Taylor, president, was toastmaster.

Bioff Threatens to Repudiate Testimony

Willie Bioff, convicted labor racketeer, has threatened to repudiate his testimony at the recent film extortion trial and "tell all I know" unless the Government keeps its alleged promise to release him, according to a copyrighted interview with Robey Parks, Hearst reporter, published yesterday in the N. Y. *Journal-American* and Chicago *Herald-American*. Bioff was interviewed in the "bull-pen" in the basement of the U. S. Courthouse here.

A cut in Bioff's 10 year sentence

(*Continued on page 8*)

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 29

THE Screen Actors Guild opened its case before the NLRB on the Screen Players Union petition for bargaining rights for extras with Kenneth Thomson, former SAG secretary, on the stand. The guild's testimony probably will consume an entire week.

•

Sam Rayburn, speaker of the House of Representatives, was entertained today at an informal reception in the Paramount executive offices by Y. Frank Freeman, president of the Association of Motion Picture Producers and a group of members of that organization.

•

Paramount here today ordered 500 Technicolor prints of "Memphis Belle," Eighth Air Force documentary, scheduled for national release on April 14, to play all first-run situations simultaneously.

•

Ten of 24 features scheduled on PRC's 1944-45 program will be produced by PRC and will carry the company's top budgets, vice-president Leon Fromkess announced today.

•

RKO has purchased "Come Share My Love," an original by Oscar Brodney, with Maurice Geraghty producing and Sid Rogell supervising.

•

RKO has signed Ella Raines to co-star with John Wayne in "Tall in the Saddle."

•

RKO has signed Dick Powell to star in "Farewell My Lovely." Edward Dmytryk will direct.

Cecil B. De Mille to See Roosevelt Today

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Cecil B. De Mille, producer of "The Story of Dr. Wassell," arrived here today and will see President Roosevelt tomorrow. There will be a preview of the film at Constitution Hall Saturday, The producer will attend Senatorial luncheons and dinners at the Netherlands, Chinese and Swedish embassies.

De Mille and party on Friday will be guests at a luncheon given by Senator John L. McClellan of Arkansas, with Vice-President Henry A. Wallace and Senator Alben W. Barkley, among those present, and that evening Lt. Colonel Hal Roach will hold a reception at his home here.

The U. S. Navy League will give a dinner for De Mille at the Mayflower Hotel tomorrow night, after which he will be guest at the Stage Door Canteen.

MPA Meeting Tomorrow

Motion Picture Associates will meet tomorrow at 12:25 P.M. in the Hotel Astor, Morris Sanders, president, has announced here. The agenda will include the planning of a charity dinner-dance, tentatively scheduled for May 19.

Personal Mention

ED KUYKENDALL, MPTOA president, is ill with bronchitis at his home in Columbus, Miss., the illness causing postponement of a contemplated trip to St. Louis for exhibitor conferences.

•

M. A. LEVY, Minneapolis district manager for 20th Century-Fox, and J. E. SCOTT, Omaha branch manager, visited STANLEY MAYER, the company's Des Moines branch manager, recently.

•

T/SGT. ROBERT C. SNELL, former employee of Crescent Amusement, Nashville, has been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered when shot down in the North Africa area.

•

JACK BERGER, formerly of Paramount's home office art department, now with the Army Air Forces at Kingman, Ariz., is visiting in New York.

•

DOUGLAS D. DESCH, office manager; E. K. DALTON, booker, and CLIFF WOOD, head shipper, all of the Dallas RKO exchange, will be inducted in two weeks.

•

SGT. BEN COHEN, son of manager LOU COHEN, Loew's Poli, Hartford, was married recently at Lowery Field, Denver, to LILA NATHANSON, Waterbury, Conn.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, Warner short subject sales manager, spent three days in Dallas on company business, and is now visiting in Memphis.

•

CAPT. PHIL LAMPKIN, formerly director for Loew's Capitol, Washington, has been promoted to major in Army Special Services.

•

H. SPENCER BERG, trade press representative at United Artists' home office, will leave tomorrow for a two-week vacation in Florida.

•

DEAN JONES, father of five children, and manager of Balaban and Katz State Theatre, Chicago, has been inducted into the Army.

WILLIAM PINE, Paramount producer, is in New York from Hollywood for several days.

•

J. A. BRACKEN, Warner contact manager in the New England zone, will leave for the Army tomorrow and will be replaced by R. W. NEPTON.

•

WILLIAM J. GELL, managing director for Pathe Pictures, Ltd., London, has arrived in New York on a business trip.

•

JACK THOMPSON, Paramount Detroit salesman, and PAUL CHAPMAN, Dallas salesman, have been inducted into the Army.

•

GEORGE PAL, Paramount "Puppetoon" cartoon producer, will arrive in New York from the Coast over the weekend.

•

JACK GOETZ, vice-president of DuArt Film Laboratories, is due back from the Coast on Friday.

•

CARROLL SINSHEINER, 20th Century-Fox receptionist in Cleveland, has joined the Waves.

•

MRS. NORMAN ROLFE, manager of the Webb Playhouse, Wethesfield, Conn., is on the sick list.

•

MAX FELLERMAN, Eastern representative of Banner Productions, has left for a tour of the West and Midwest.

•

SAM GORELICK, Chicago RKO branch manager, returned to that city yesterday from Springfield, Ill.

•

SIDNEY FRANKLIN, M-G-M producer, is due in New York from Hollywood tomorrow.

•

LOU SMITH, M-G-M studio publicist, is expected here from the Coast tomorrow.

•

HAROLD RODNER, Warner home office executive, is in Philadelphia today.

Tennessee Theatres Set New Admissions

NASHVILLE, March 29.—Theatres in Tennessee are the latest to announce policies on new admission scales to meet the Federal one-cent-on-five tax which goes into effect Saturday.

Memphis uptown and suburban houses are adding an even 5 cents to former 35-cent admissions, and increasing children's tickets from 11 to 12 cents. In Nashville, Crescent houses are adding another ten percent to existing scales.

Dinner for Rosenthal

BRIDGEPORT, March 29.—Morris Rosenthal, manager of the Majestic here for the past 19 years, will be feted at a dinner here Saturday on his promotion to managership of Loew's Poli and to Loew's city manager here.

U A. Owners Meeting Is Unlikely Now

HOLLYWOOD, March 29.—Present indications are that United Artists' owners will be unable to hold their scheduled meeting here during the current visit of Edward C. Raftery, president, and Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president, due to the inability of Charles Chaplin to attend because of the trial in which he is involved here. The company owners have not met since last November.

On the agenda for the meeting, among other things, was discussion of the purchase of Sir Alexander Korda's United Artists stock and ratification of Walter Gould as head of the company's international department. If no meeting is held, Gould will continue in the post, reporting directly to the United Artists' board of directors, as he has been doing since the resignation of Arthur W. Kelly two months ago.

Ask $1,694,756 in OWI Film Budget

WASHINGTON, March 29.—President Roosevelt today sent to Congress the approved budget for operation of the Office of War Information during the year beginning July 1 and asked for an appropriation of $64,390,000.

Motion picture activities of both the domestic and overseas branches will be increased, but the domestic bureau, under Stanton Griffis, is asking only $4,428 more than the $50,000 to which that office was cut by Congress last July. Next year's motion picture operations of the overseas branch are estimated to cost $1,640,328, compared with $1,285,873 this year.

The bulk of the $64,390,000 will be spent by the OWI overseas branch, which is asking for $59,561,000, an increase of $25,000,000 over this year, because of the increased volume of psychological and other work it expects to be called upon to do. Only a small increase is sought for the domestic branch, which will require $4,829,000.

With Congress about to recess over Easter, no action will be taken on the OWI budget until next month.

Devaney Elected CMPDA President

TORONTO, March 29.—Leo Devaney, RKO Canadian sales manager, was elected president of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association, succeeding the late J. P. O'Loghlin, at its annual meeting here today. A. W. Perry, general manager of Empire-Universal Films, became vice-president. Both were members of the board of directors.

Col. John A. Cooper continues as chairman of the board while other board members were returned to their posts by acclamation. They include Wolfe Cohen, D. Coplan, Louis Rosenfeld and O. R. Hanson.

Equity Nominating Committee Named

Actors Equity members have elected Whitford Kane, Leo Carroll, Margaret Wycherly, Victor Jory, Alfred Drake and Howard Da Silva as a nominating committee which will propose 15 candidates from which 10 will be chosen at the organization's annual meeting in May to serve five-year terms on the Equity council. No officers or council replacements are scheduled for election this year.

Augustin Duncan, Calvin Thomas and Ruth Hammond, council members, will serve on the nominating committee also, with Duncan as chairman.

"Pioneers' Night" Mar. 31

Chicago Variety Club will hold its "pioneers' night" dinner tomorrow night at the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, instead of April 31 as inadvertently stated in yesterday's MOTION PICTURE DAILY calendar.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco. New York." Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Mexican Filming Halted Over Fight

Mexico City, March 29.— Production has been halted by the Association of Mexican Motion Picture Producers in protest against friction among studio employes resulting from several key players quitting the National Cinematographic Workers' Union to form their own players' union.

Maria Moreno, known professionally as 'Cantinflas,' comedian, and Jorge Negrete led the actors' revolt. Production will remain in suspension until the friction ends, spokesmen of the producers have warned.

Camden May Lift Ban on Children

CAMDEN, N. J., March 29.— The theatre industry hereabouts has voluntarily 'cleaned house' of juvenile delinquencies and, accordingly, indications are that the city order, invoked earlier in the year, prohibiting children under 14 years from going to theatres at any time unless accompanied by an adult, will be rescinded. Exhibitors 'policed' themselves in observing the ruling, with no supervision from city or county officials.

Since the law, designed to help curb juvenile delinquency, was invoked, there has not been a single complaint registered with the police against the film houses, and exhibitors are hopeful that the ruling will be rescinded. Affecting about 40 theatres in the entire county, the law has made heavy inroads on matinee business at neighborhood houses.

$90,000 in Bonds to Rickenbacker's Crew

Eureka Pictures, which soon will begin filming the life story of Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, and 20th-Fox, which will handle distribution, have presented, through the captain, $80,000 in war bonds to the six living crew members who spend 21 days adrift with him on a raft in the Pacific, plus $10,000 in bonds to the parents of Sgt. Alexander Kaczmarczyk, who died during the ordeal.

Payment was made for the right to use the names and likenesses of the men.

Gary Corp. Appeals Complaint Dismissal

The Gary Theatre Corp., operating the Palace, Gary, Ind., has filed an appeal from a dismissal of its clearance complaint against RKO and 20th-Fox at the Chicago tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

In dismissing the complaint, George E. Fraser, Chicago arbitrator, held that the plaintiff failed to furnish sufficient evidence to substantiate his claims.

Joseph Ratliff Dies

HOLLYWOOD, March 29.—Joseph M. Ratliff, former actor, died recently at his home in North Hollywood. He was a member of the Lambs, New York, and of the Masquers Club here. Surviving is his widow.

Reviews

"Tampico"

(20th Century-Fox)

THE performances of Edward G. Robinson as a patriotic but dangerously soft-hearted captain of the Merchant Marine and Lynn Bari as his charming but slightly irresponsible war bride, result in a production with audience pull, first as an object lesson against loose talk, then as an idyllic shore-leave romance, and finally as a thrilling, spy-chasing "whodunnit" after the tanker Calhoun is torpedoed.

These disparate plot elements of "Tampico" have been skilfully juggled in the screen play which Kenneth Gamet, Fred Niblo, Jr., and Richard Macauley wrote from Ladislas Fodor's original about a girl who appears among passengers rescued from a lifeboat, although nobody remembers her on the ship they abandoned. At Tampico, moved by the story that she is a stranded American dancer who stowed away, the captain vouches for her to the authorities and finally marries her — much to the disgust of Victor McLaglen, his mate, who never believes in playing for keeps. On its next trip the Calhoun is sunk, leaving the audience in suspense as to whether Miss Bari carelessly gave away its sailing time or whether she is a Nazi spy. Robinson, surviving, suspects the worst, and the husband and wife quarrel and part—until, stripped of his commission, he is approached by the real enemy agents and has a chance to rub them out in a pistol-popping climax.

Robert Bassler has given "Tampico" a production rich in both shipboard and cabaret detail, and director Lothar Mendes' technique of short yet leisurely scenes provides a nice flow without undue confusion. Strong supporting roles are in the capable hands of Robert Bailey, Marc Lawrence, E. J. Ballentine, Mona Maris, Tonio Selwart and Helen Brown.

Runnning time, 75 minutes. "G."* Release in April.

TOM LOY

"Outlaw Trail"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, March 29

"OUTLAW TRAIL" mounts its horse on the fly and rides off in all directions with Hoot Gibson, Bob Steele and Chief Thundercloud trying to rein it back on the trail at every break in the entangling brush along the badlands.

The trio "adopt" the heiress to a ranch whose owner has been murdered. They save the girl and other ranchers from being swindled by "Honest" John, banker and merchant, after one of the banker's henchmen murders him and attempts to get away with the bank's funds and a huge herd comprising all of the marketable steers in the valley. Bob Steele, as usual, falls for the "adopted" heiress, Jennifer Holt, who is already in love with the sheriff, 'Rocky' Camron.

Robert Tansey produced and directed from a script by Francis Kavanaugh.

Running time, 55 minutes. "G."* Release date April 29.

JACK CARTWRIGHT.

*"G" denotes general classification.

Gehring Names 20th Club Committees

W. C. Gehring, Western sales manager for 20th Century-Fox, before leaving on a sales trip this week, created five committees to work with him during his presidency of the 'Fox Family Club.' Chairmen are:

Frank Carroll, membership committee, with Stella Sidel, Jack Lang and Julia Wolpin as associates; Bob Montgomery, public relations, with Hettie G. Baker as associate; Lew Lehr, social, with Jack Sichelman, Anne Schneider and William Clark.

Morris Breggin, finance, with Joseph Seco and Maurice Goodman, and Doris Adelman, athletic, with Fred Bullock as associate.

Caskey in New Haven

John Caskey of distributors' defense counsel in the Prefect anti-trust trial, which has adjourned until Tuesday because of jurors' illness, is in New Haven working on the case. Max Rose, also of defense counsel, will join him there tomorrow.

New Film Center To Rise in Toronto

TORONTO, March 29.—A group of companies headed by Paul Nathanson, president of Odeon Theatres, is making the first move for construction of new film headquarters here under the new requirements of the Ontario government code. The project is a building to be erected at 81-12 Carlton St. in the center of the city.

The structure, as planned, will be the Canadian head office of Odeon, Empire-Universal Films, Sovereign Film Distributors, Esquire Films, and General Theatres Corp. At present these companies are scattered in three buildings.

Eisenberg Gets Houses

CHICAGO, March 29.—Ben Eisenberg, Monogram sales manager here, announced recently that he had acquired leases from Abe Gumbiner on the Paulina, Royal and Banner Theatres and had appointed Michael Seigel to operate them as general manager.

Short Subject Reviews

"Chinatown Champs"

(Warners)

Attractive for its color and atmosphere, "Chinatown Champs," though produced for the "Sports Parade" series, strays from the usual sports reel pattern. The film is devoted to showing how San Francisco's Chinatown has turned to its youth-building recreational facilities in the shadows of ancient and picturesque pagodas. Running time 10 mins.

"The Struggle for Life"

(Warners)

Depicting the struggle of the animal over his environment. Produced by Moscow Technical Film Studios, the subject is approached from refreshingly new angles and should find a good market here. Camera work is excellent and commentary is interesting. Running time 10 mins.

Eight More from RKO Into Service

Eight more of RKO's home office staff are going into service: Jack Schachtel, 12 years with RKO and assistant to Lou Gaudreau, is going into the Navy; Harry Markham of the short subjects department, with the company 16 years, is also headed for the Navy; Fred Miller, with 20 years to his credit, will enter the Army; Lenny Blum of the photostat department, with the company 15 years, and George Kessler and Ed Kestenbaum of theatre publicity, are on their way into the Army as is Roy Largo of the still department. Kate Bodner of the accounting department, is a Wave volunteer.

Skouras Houses Sold $5,340,630 in Bonds

Skouras Theatres Corp. here has sold $5,340,630 in 'E' war bonds and $208,510 in war stamps for the Fourth War Loan drive, with 64 theatres participating.

In selling $638,400 of 'E' bonds at the Merrick Theatre, Jamaica, a 2,520 seat house, manager Moe Barenco sold almost three bonds for every seat. Skouras Theatres claims it was the first theatre circuit in the United States to be designated as an official war bond issuing agency by the Treasury.

Century Quota Three Millions; Gets Nine

Century Circuit here had a bond quota of $3,000,000 for the Fourth War Loan drive; it sold $9,000,000 worth. The circuit recently raised $2,300,000 in bond sales and admissions to the Nassau County dinner at the Garden City Hotel, Garden City, L. I.

27,315 Bonds in Capital

WASHINGTON, March 29.— Washington theatres sold 27,315 Fourth War Loan bonds, with a maturity value of $2,306,475.

445,000 See 'Song'

"Song of Bernadette" has played to almost 445,000 persons to date at the Rivoli here, establishing a new record, according to Tom Connors, vice-president of distribution for 20th-Fox.



Jack L. Warner, *Executive Producer*



"Shine on Harvest Moon"!

'Miracle' Rates Fine $39,500 In L. A. Duo

LOS ANGELES, March 29.—"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" was the standout in the first ideal weather this year. It got $39,500 at the two Paramounts, which together average $31,300. "Up in Arms" continued to make box office history in the Pantages-Hillstreet duo, getting $40,200 in its fourth week on a combination house average of $36,400.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 29:

"The Heavenly Body" (M-G-M)
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
CARTHAY CIRCLE—(1,516) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $10,200. (Average: $11,200).

"The Heavenly Body" (M-G-M)
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
CHINESE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,500).

"Chip off the Old Block" (Univ.)
"Cowboy Canteen" (Col.)
EGYPTIAN — (1,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,500).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
FOUR STAR—(900) (85c-$1.10-$1.65) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $8,625. (Average: $7,570).

"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
"Hot Rhythm" (Mono.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (33c-44c-55c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $6,200).

"Up in Arms" (RKO)
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $19,700. (Average: $19,700).

"The Heavenly Body" (M-G-M)
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $24,100).

"Chip off the Old Block" (Univ.)
"Cowboy Canteen" (Col.)
LOS ANGELES—(2,098) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,900).

"Up in Arms" (RKO)
"Nine Girls" (Col.)
PANTAGES — (2,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $20,500. (Average: $16,700).

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $11,000).

"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (45c-55c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $20,300).

"Chip off the Old Block" (Univ.)
"Cowboy Canteen" (Col.)
RITZ — (1,376) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,700).

"The Heavenly Body" (M-G-M)
"The Cross of Lorraine" (M-G-M)
UPTOWN — (1,716) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $10,500).

"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
WARNER'S HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $17,000).

"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
WARNER'S DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $19,200. (Average: $18,700).

"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
WARNER'S WILTERN—(2,200) (45c-55c-75c-90c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,700). (Average: $15,200).

National Press Club Sees 'Memphis Belle'

WASHINGTON, March 29.—"Memphis Belle," U. S. Eighth Army Air Force combat report released by Paramount, was shown at the National Press Club here last night, before an audience of press and radio writers and top-ranking Air Force officers. The gathering was addressed by short wave from London by General James Doolittle. A speech was also made by General Henry H. Arnold, Air Force chief.

Alec Moss, Paramount exploitation manager, arranged the affair, with the cooperation of the bureau of public relations of the War Department.

Reviews

"Jamboree"

(Republic)

AN aggregation of radio talent has been assembled for Republic's "Jamboree" and some sprightly novelty tunes have been placed at their disposal for a satisfactory garden-variety musical that shuffles back and forth between a radio station and a farm.

Freddie Fisher and his Schnickelfritz Band, The Music Maids, Ernest Tubb and his Texas Troubadors, the resonant voice and rotund figure of Don Wilson and Isabel Randolph, Rufe Davis, Shirley Mitchell and George (Shug) Fisher appear at frequent intervals with the particular specialties that have sold them to radio followers. Ruth Terry, George Byron, Paul Harvey and Edwin Stanley are present for the straight roles; Miss Terry also sings.

The slight story is concerned with Byron's efforts as a band agent to sign the Schnickelfritz Band for a radio show. It concerns, also, their sojourn on a farm where they learn to simulate the Texas Troubadors and land the radio spot, and their efforts to extricate themselves from their not-so-soft farm berth in order to fulfill the new contract. Complications result from their failure to secure availability certificates to leave farm work. Joseph Santley directed from a screenplay by Jack Townley and an original by Townley and Taylor Cavan. Armand Schaefer was associate producer.

Running time, 71 mins. "G."* Release date, May 5.

CHARLES RYWECK

"Sundown Valley"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, March 29

ASSOCIATE producer Jack Fier and director Benjamin Kline have modernized, mechanized, and injected World War II patriotism into a Western, in "Sundown Valley"; without detracting from the chase, fisticuff action, straight shooting and hard riding.

Charles Starrett, as Steve Denton, finds Jeanne Bates, as Sidney Hawkins, trying to manufacture special gunsights her grandfather invented for the Army. He pitches in to help, rounds up the cowpunchers and ranchers to supply manpower. In spite of shutdowns, efforts of a crooked gambler and saloon operator to fatten on pay checks of the workers which causes absenteeism, the pair win out and the gunsights are shipped on time.

Aaron Stell's cutting job of George Meehan's effective lens work is worthy of praise, as is the unusual Western script supplied by Luci Ward.

Running time, 57 minutes. "G."* Release date March 23.

JACK CARTWRIGHT.

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Snow White' Tops Average by $7,400

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Theatres reported very good business here. RKO-Keith's should do $21,000 with "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," while "The Song of Bernadette" is headed for an exciting $32,000 at Loew's Palace.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 30:

"Swing Fever" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S CAPITOL—(3,434) (28c-39c-44c-66c) 7 days. On stage: Martha Raye, Three Swifts. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $22,000).

"Rationing" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S COLUMBA—(1,234) (30c-50c) 7 days, 2nd downtown week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,200).

"Cover Girl" (Col.)
WARNER'S EARLE—(2,210) (30c-40c-50c-75c-90c) 7 days. On stage: Mary Healy. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $19,700).

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (RKO)
RKO-KETH'S—(1,800) (40c-50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $13,600).

"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
WARNER'S METROPOLITAN – (1,600) (30c-44c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $7,200).

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
LOEW'S PALACE—(2,242) (28c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $19,000).

Record $26,000 for 'Lady' in Baltimore

BALTIMORE, March 29.—A break in the weather and new product aided boxoffices here. "Lady in the Dark" led off with a record $26,000 at Keith's. "The Fighting Seabees" at the Stanley, and "Rationing" at the Century both got $17,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 30:

"Rationing" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (28c-44c-50c and 55c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $16,000).

"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (28c-35c-44c-55c) 4 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average for week, $10,300).

"Lady in the Dark" (Para.)
KEITH'S—(2,405) (30c-35c-40c-44c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $13,900).

"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
STANLEY—(3,280) (28c-40c-50c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $16,900).

"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
HIPPODROME—(2,205) (28c-30c-45c-55c-66c) 7 days. Stage show: Lenny Gale, Bob Easton, Pearl Williams, Lewis & Van, Charles O'Donnell. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $17,500).

"Hey, Rookie" (Col.)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (20c-40c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,900. (Average: $6,400).

"The Long Voyage Home" (UA)
MARYLAND—(1,400) (25c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,500).

Men in New Guinea Pass Up War Films

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Corp. Harry McDonald, assigned to a bombing squadron in the New Guinea area, to his father, Charles McDonald, home office assistant to RKO Theatres' general manager:

"You asked me about the reaction of the boys to war pictures. They are very much against them and numerous times will pass them by, even if they haven't seen a picture in months. And I'm telling you, that is quite a sacrifice. So you can relay that to the powers that be."

'Uninvited' Draws $12,800 in Toronto

TORONTO, March 29.—"The Uninvited" at Shea's Theatre was the leader for the week here, pointing to $12,800, while $11,300 looked like the count for "Tender Comrade" for a second week at the Imperial.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 30:

"The Rains Came" (20th-Fox)
"Under Two Flags" (20th-Fox)
EGLINTON — (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $4,000).

"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
IMPERIAL — (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,300. (Average: $12,800).

"Madame Curie" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S — (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,200. (Average: $11,200).

"The Uninvited" (Para.)
SHEA'S — (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $12,800).

"His Butler's Sister" (Univ.) moveover
"Went the Day Well" (Br.) moveover
TIVOLI — (1,434) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $3,900. (Average: $4,400).

"The Oklahoma Kid" (WB)
"Swingtime Johnny" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $8,800. (Average: $9,800).

RKO to Screen Five Between April 17-20

Trade showings of five RKO Radio pictures will be held nationally April 17-20. The schedule calls for "Days of Glory" and "The Falcon Out West" on the 17th, "Yellow Canary" and "Youth Runs Wild" on the 18th and "Show Business" on the 19th, in all exchange cities except St. Louis, which will have the screenings in each instance on the following day. "The Falcon" has already been trade-shown in New York, San Francisco and St. Louis and will not be repeated.

Labor Shortage May Halt British Color

LONDON, March 29.—Producers are pressing the government's Board of Trade for some relief from a serious labor shortage in the Technicolor field, warning that production of color films will inevitably be held up if labor is unobtainable.

Discuss War Films

"Is the Public Tired of War Films?" will be the subject of a radio forum to be broadcast under the auspices of Skouras Theatres' war effort on Saturday over station WINS, in New York.

'Heart' and 'Creek' Are Winners in Good Philadelphia Week

PHILADELPHIA, March 29. — With many new openings and the weather favorable, good business prevails here. Leading are "The Purple Heart," pointing to $26,500 for its first week at the Stanley, with an added $3,800 for the dual Sunday showing at the Earle; and "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek," which figures on giving the Fox $27,500 to start its run.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 29-31:

"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
ALDINE—(900) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $21,200. (Average: $14,600).
"Swing Fever" (M-G-M)
ARCADIA—(600) (35c-46c-57c-68c) 5 days, 2nd run. Gross: $3,400. (Average: $4,000).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
BOYD—(3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $24,200. (Average: $18,000).
"Nine Girls" (Col.) (6 days)
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox) (1 day)
EARLE—(3,000) (46c-57c-75c) 6 days of vaudeville including Ray Heatherton's orchestra, Jane Withers, Steve Evans, Frank McGuire, Hal Chase and Ann Warren. Gross: $26,200. (Average: $27,800).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
FOX — (3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $27,500. (Average: $20,500).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
KARLTON — (1,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,600).
"Higher and Higher" (RKO)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,800).
"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
MASTBAUM—(4,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $23,400. (Average: $22,500).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
STANLEY — (3,000) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $20,000).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
STANTON — (1,700) (35c-41c-46c-57c-68c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $15,200. (Average: $9,400).

'Cover Girl' Heads For Big $16,000

KANSAS CITY, March 29.—"Cover Girl" is grossing approximately $16,000 at the Midland to lead first runs. "In Our Time," plus "'Frisco Kid" at the Orpheum, grossed $13,000. Weather has alternated between Summer and freezing.

"Phantom Lady" (Univ.)
ESQUIRE—(800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,000).
"Cover Girl" (Col.)
MIDLAND — (3,600) (35c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $14,000).
"The Desert Song" (WB)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000).
"In Our Time" (WB)
"Frisco Kid" (WB)
ORPHEUM — (1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,000).
"My Best Gal" (Rep.)
"Hi Good Lookin'" (Univ.)
TOWER—(2,200) (35c-50c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,400).
"Phantom Lady" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,600).
"Phantom Lady" (Univ.)
FAIRWAY—(700) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $1,400. (Average: $1,600).

Petrillo, Walsh Sued

Justice Morris Eder has reserved decision on a motion of Opera-on-Tour, Inc., to examine James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, in a $90,000 action against the union leader and Richard F. Walsh, president of the IATSE. Opera-on-Tour charges that the unions interfered with the presentation of opera with transcriptions instead of orchestral music.

Hollywood

By JACK CARTWRIGHT

Hollywood, March 29.

THE lull in production at RKO-Radio ended abruptly this week with six pictures listed on call sheets. At the same time 20th Century-Fox reflected a similar upswing in production with six scheduled to start within the next month. Universal put one on schedule to start this week and set several others for April starts.

Latest to get the green light at RKO is "That Hunter Girl" with Laraine Day and Alan Marshall co-starred and Richard Wallace directing; "Here Comes the Bride" (formerly "Cocktails for Two") also went in work with John Auer directing and producing under Sid Rogell's supervision. Anne Shirley and Phil Terry have the leads.

Others in work at RKO include "None But the Lonely Heart" with Clifford Odets directing for producer David Hempstead; the Frank Sinatra musical formerly known as "Manhattan Serenade" with Tim Whelan directing for Robert Fellows; "Heavenly Days," another Fellows production, which Howard Estabrook is directing, and "The Falcon in Mexico" with William Berke directing for Maurice Geraghty. . .

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New ones scheduled to start at 20th-Fox within the next 30 days are "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," which Louis Lighton is producing; "Laura," with Otto Preminger producing; Irving Starr's "Something for the Boys"; Albert Bassler's "Thunderhead," which is a sequel to "My Friend Flicka"; "Rip Goes to War," with Bill Gerard at the helm and another Laurel and Hardy number.

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Paramount has 11 features in the cutting rooms. Three are Technicolor productions: "Frenchman's Creek," "Incendiary Blonde" and "Rainbow Island." Black and whites are: "The Hitler Gang," "The Road to Utopia," "Hail the Conquering Hero," "I Love a Soldier," "Till We Meet Again," "And Now Tomorrow," and Pine-Thomas films, "Gambler's Choice" and "One Body Too Many."

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"Little Bit of Heaven," original written around the Broadway era of 1901, which M-G-M purchased for Jack Cummings to produce as a romantic comedy with music, had an unusual beginning. The story was written by Robert D. Andrews, Marine Captain John Cleveland, and Air Corps Captain Luther Davis. The three collaborated by correspondence. Andrews was in Hollywood, Cleveland in Quantico, Va., and Davis in India. Cleveland has since been killed in action and Davis is now on duty in India. Gene Kelly will play the part of a prizefighter and Kathryn Grayson will portray a Coney Island girl who makes good as a Broadway singer.

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Elena Verdugo, descendant of the famous Spanish family of that name which settled in California in the early days, has been named "Baby Dynamite" of Camp Haan and is up for dancing roles in pictures of three different studios. She was last seen in "Moon and Sixpence."

WHAT EXHIBITOR MUST DO KEEPING BOOKS ON THE NEW ADMISSION TAX

HOW AND WHAT TO REPORT

All the imperative questions on the subject answered by the Federal Bureau of Internal Revenue in a complete report from Washington.

in

MOTION PICTURE HERALD

OUT TOMORROW!

Kodak, Film Heads Meeting On Television

(*Continued from page* 1)

ings with groups in allied industries interested in television development with an eye to fulfilling the same functions of equipment supply.

Reports assembled by the Kodak executives will spearhead the company's early postwar manufacture of television equipment and raw stock if special film types are required.

Current wide film industry interest in television as an early postwar possibility is understood to have prompted Eastman Kodak's current approach. American Telephone and Telegraph recently offered to make available television facilities to the film industry. Through Will Hays, MPPDA president, it invited an exchange of information with the industry on television.

Paramount has existing television relations with Dumont. The board of directors of RKO-Radio have a report on the company's possible participation, prepared by Ralph Austrian, but no action has yet been taken. Scophony officials have been seeking to bring all film companies into the company's postwar theatre television plans.

'Cover Girl' $4,600 Over in Providence

PROVIDENCE, March 29.—Best business during the week was done by "Cover Girl," which opened with $15,100 at the Strand. "The Sullivans" continued strong at the Majestic in its second week with $10,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 30:

"Chip Off the Old Block" (Univ.)
"Escape to Danger (RKO)
RKO-ALBEE—(2,239) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 9 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $12,800, 7 days).
"Cover Girl" (Col.)
STRAND—(2,200) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $10,500).
"Knickerbocker Holiday" (UA)
"Two-Man Submarine" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $17,700).
"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,100).
"Rationing" (M-G-M)
"Hey Rookie" (Col.)
CARLTON—(1,526) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Loew's State. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $4,000).
"Uncensored" (20th-Fox)
FAY'S—(1,800) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. On stage: Roy Rogers, LaFleur & Manners, Warren, Evans, & Kitty, Joseph Johan, Al Ferguson, Phil Fletcher. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,500).
"Rosie, the Riveter" (Rep.)
METROPOLITAN—(3,050) (40c-65c) 3 days. On stage: Woody Herman's Orchestra. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $7,900).

Lippart Gets 21st

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29. — The Robert L. Lippart circuit acquired its 21st house with the purchase of the Playland, a former amusement parlor, which has been converted into a theatre and is now known as the Roundup. The house features Westerns on a daily change. Al Fontana is manager.

$250,000 for Ice Show

MINNEAPOLIS, March 29.—Competition for film theatres to the extent of a $250,000 advance sale is being provided here by "Ice Follies," which has opened a three-week, 26-performance run at the Arena.

16,390 Theatres Play Bond Film

Washington, March 29.—What is believed to be a record for many years in the number of theatres played by a single film has been chalked up by "Any Bonds Today," one-reeler made by Warner Bros. for the Treasury Department.

The subject, designed to spur public buying of War Bonds, has played 16,390 theatres, which means just about every house in the country. One thousand prints were used, likewise a high.

Wanger's Venereal Film Withdrawn

(*Continued from page* 1)

Health Service, upon review of the film, recommended that in its present form it was unsuitable for distribution in either the theatrical or the non-theatrical fields. It was recommended that plans for theatrical distribution of the film be abandoned and that an effort be made to have it revised in certain respects. Following such revision determination will then be made as to whether the revised film is suitable for non-theatrical distribution.

Following this recommendation the Office of War Information ordered the film withdrawn.

Objections to the film were based on the questionable character of the subject matter for theatres and on what was described as poor handling of the subject for instructional purposes.

Wanger this week began a campaign in *PM*, New York newspaper, to force acceptance of the film in its present form.

Wright Succeeds Thomson, Retired

(*Continued from page* 1)

company's public relations activities for 33 years.

With the advent of sound pictures in 1926 he produced the first industrial sound film, "Western Electric News." Since 1925 Thomson has also been a director and since 1927 president of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the organization devoted to the self-regulation of the publishing and advertising business. In 1938 he received the Annual Advertising Award for "distinguished services to advertising."

In 1910 Wright entered Western Electric and later served six years with Western Union. In 1916 he became president of the Foundry Motor Car Co. and of Missiquoi Lime Works. He had charge of manufacturing supplies at the U. S. Government Arsenal at Watervliet, N. Y., in 1918. Wright re-entered Western Electric in 1922. Wright became general manager of distribution in the East in 1935 and Eastern zone manager in 1942.

Gerson to Monogram

CLEVELAND, March 29.—Nate Gerson has resigned as booker for Warners here to join Monogram in a similar capacity. He succeeds Miss Frances Kates who resigned. Mrs. June Levy replaces Gerson at Warners.

2,107 More Theatres Extend Collections

(*Continued from page* 1)

gerald, Milwaukee, Wisconsin chairman, advised that the 357 theatres in his area were set for the second weekend; Earl J. Hudson, Detroit, chairman for Michigan, also reported his group was in line for the extension.

Meanwhile, Red Cross collections in RKO Theatres are running 23 percent ahead of last year, with $125,760 taken in during the first six days of the current drive as compared with last year's grand total of $105,242, the circuit reported here yesterday. At the present rate, and with the extension of the drive through the coming weekend, RKO officials estimate that this year's RKO collections should exceed $250,000.

John Nolan of Comerford Publix Theatres wired from Scranton that his group of 88 houses will continue collections for a second weekend; A. J. Kearney of the Shea Circuit, 41 theatres, also checked in, and Lou Golding, exhibitor chairman for the Albany, N. Y., territory, reported that the 220 houses in his area were set for a second weekend.

Red Cross Meet at 20th

More than 350 home office employees of 20th Century-Fox attended a Red Cross rally at the company's home office yesterday. Mrs. Frank E. West, Jr., of the Red Cross addressed the group, following an introductory talk by W. C. Michel. Jack Lang, company personnel manager, also spoke. Charles Light of the Red Cross also attended.

Bioff Threatens to Repudiate Testimony

(*Continued from page* 1)

was promised by the Government, Bioff claims, for appearing as its star witness recently against the six convicted Chicago gangsters and a New Jersey labor leader. Previously Bioff was alleged to have said that he and George E. Browne, former IATSE president, were coached by the Government as to how to testify at the trial last October.

'Journalistic Sabotage' Of Bioff Trial Charged

A high Department of Justice official last night told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that Robey Parks, Hearst reporter who had been covering the Bioff-Browne case, tried variously to "journalistically sabotage" the Government's prosecution of the ex-union extortionists "from the very beginning of the trial."

Heart Attack Fatal To Mort H. Singer

(*Continued from page* 1)

Mrs. Cecilia Singer, Beverly Hills; a stepson, Jerome L. Nathan, and a second brother, Harry, Los Angeles.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 4 p.m., from a chapel at 926 East 47th Street here. The body will be cremated.

Schwartz Resigns

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—Samuel D. Schwartz, head of the real estate department for the Warner circuit in this area, has resigned after nine years with the company.

Studios Face Jurisdictional Union Battle

(*Continued from page* 1)

of Labor-International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 40, which handles permanent studio electrical constructions, also seeks to gain control of studio television lighting.

Several years ago a studio jurisdictional battle between the two electricians' unions threatened to close all affiliated circuit theatres when the IATSE studio group obtained support of the projectionists' locals for a strike to bring pressure on producers for complete jurisdiction.

Local 728, according to Dennison, handled the lights in a television experiment at the RKO studio and indicated that neither locals handle the lights as yet on television experimentations being conducted at Paramount.

Electricians This Week

It is expected that the conferees here will reach the IATSE electricians' proposals either late this week or early next. Richard Walsh, IATSE international president, has been designating the order in which the individual locals make contract proposals to the producers' representatives. Yesterday's sessions were confined to negotiations with IATSE projectionists and the make-up artists' and hair-dressers' local.

The producers have reached tentative accords with six of the seven AFL locals who are signatories to the studio basic labor agreement with further negotiations being relegated to a six-man committee composed of Nicholas Schenck, Pat Casey, Fred Pelton, representing the producers, and W. L. Hutcheson, carpenters' head; Jack Gillespie of the transportation workers, and Edward J. Brown of the electricians.

ITOA State Control Bill Awaits Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

consent decree, when finally entered, does not provide the trade practice relief sought by ITOA, the organization will endeavor to have its bill for state regulation of the industry introduced at the next session of the legislature. The legislature is not scheduled to convene again until 1945. It is understood that former Mayor James J. Walker was to have sponsored the measure.

A draft of the proposed amendment has been sent by ITOA to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark with the request that its provisions be incorporated in the new decree, Weisman stated.

'Hargrove' Overseas

Sixty-five 16mm prints of M-G-M's "See Here, Private Hargrove" are on the way overseas by boat and plane, according to the Army Pictorial Service here. Men in the battle zones will see the film ahead of most audiences in this country.

'New Market' Burns

DES MOINES, March 29.—Fire which started in the projection booth recently destroyed the New Market Theatre at nearby New Market.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 55. NO. 64 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1944 TEN CENTS

8 WEST YORK

Operators in Service Now Total 5,600

'IA' Sees Projectionist Shortage by Summer

More than 5,600 IATSE projectionists alone have entered the armed forces since Pearl Harbor. More than 20 per cent have gone since Jan. 1, according to IATSE headquarters in New York. Projectionists drafted, it is indicated, will be greater in the first three months of 1944 than those for the entire previous year.

Volunteers are many, it is believed, inasmuch as a large number of 'IA' members are past the current callable age of 38. The figure does not, of course, include non-'IA' members, although projectionists not holding membership in that organization are comparatively minor, numerically.

As inroads by Selective Service into the father category become more

(*Continued on page 9*)

Plans Readied for 50th Anniversary

Preparations have been made by the Public Information Committee of the film industry, under supervision of Si Seadler, M-G-M advertising manager, as chairman of the committee, for a national campaign, beginning on April 14 and continuing through Dec. 31, for the observation of the 50th anniversary of the industry. April 14, 1894, was the day when films were

(*Continued on page 9*)

Drive-Ins Return On Lifted Blackout

Boston, March 30.—Drive-in film theatre interests in New England, which are among the most numerous in the country, are already laying plans for a return of operations as soon as weather permits, now that Coastal blackouts are no longer required.

The drive-ins were able to operate under gas and car-riding restrictions, but they could not mount the blackout handicaps of the previous two seasons, and so folded last year.

Tax Effective at Midnight; U.S. Cites Basic Procedure

At 12:01 A.M. Saturday, the American theatregoing public will start paying an additional estimated $125,500,000 a year in taxes to Uncle Sam for entertainment, most of it for motion picture entertainment, raising the total ticket tax payments to an approximate $297,000,000 annually.

For the most part, exhibitors all over the country will apply the tax rise plus sufficient of a raise in actual admission to arrive at a multiple of five cents, except in the 15, 45 and 75-cent brackets, which do not permit a "round-figure" scale.

Last-minute instructions to exhibitors have been issued by the U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau on the manner and method of applying, collecting and returning the tax to the Govern-

(*Continued on page 9*)

Schedule of New U. S. Ticket Tax

The following schedule shows where the tax 'break' comes on theatre admissions up to 52 cents, under the new Federal levy of one cent on each five cents *or major fraction* thereof paid for admissions:

Admission Charges (Inc.)	*Tax*
$0.01 to $0.02	$0.00
0.03 to 0.07	0.01
0.08 to 0.12	0.02
0.13 to 0.17	0.03
0.18 to 0.22	0.04
0.23 to 0.27	0.05
0.28 to 0.32	0.06
0.33 to 0.37	0.07
0.38 to 0.42	0.08
0.43 to 0.47	0.09
0.48 to 0.52	0.10

Rank Has 3 Millions in 'U'

PHILADELPHIA, March 30.—The Securities and Exchange Commission tonight disclosed that J. Arthur Rank's General Cinema Financial Corp., of London, last July redeemed $1,000,000 worth of Universal debenture bonds which it held, but still held 134,375 of the company's common voting trust certificates. (The certificates, at yesterday's closing prices on the New York Curb Exchange, are currently valued at $3,090,625.)

The 134,375 voting trust certificates (warrants for the purchase of common stock) represent approximately 40 per cent of the 331,366 warrants

(*Continued on page 8*)

Report Deal Between Rank, Loew's, 20th

LONDON, March 30.—An agreement between Loew's, 20th Century-Fox and J. Arthur Rank has been reached with respect to the interests of the three in the Metropolis and Bradford Trust, holding company for British Gaumont, it was reported here today.

The agreement, it was said, is being forwarded to New York immediately for study and possible ratification by Loew's.

David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer of Loew's, said yesterday that to his knowledge the company had not yet received details of any agreement which might have been reached by Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, with Rank in London, and that he personally had no knowledge of the existence of such an agreement.

5,927 Houses Ready For Second Weekend Of Red Cross Drive

With a total of 5,927 known theatres participating, the industry's 1944 Red Cross drive started its second week of collections yesterday and will wind up Sunday night in most houses, although some have indicated they will continue to collect for two full weeks, the War Activities Committee reported here.

It was estimated by the industry committee that at least 700 theatres as

(*Continued on page 8*)

Warn Illinois Owners On Child Labor Law

CHICAGO, March 30.—Theatre operators were included in the warning made today by Francis B. Murphy director of the Illinois State Department of Labor, at a conference of welfare officials in which steps were taken to combat violations of the state's child labor laws growing out of the pressing manpower shortage here.

"We know the positions of many employers is difficult," said Murphy, "but the emergency is no excuse whatsoever for exploiting children. We have tried persuasion and explanation of the law wherever possible. Now we are going to get tough."

Talk Postwar Film Problems With Allies

State Dept. Working to Avoid Censorship

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Postwar problems involved in international trade in motion pictures already are receiving the attention of the State Department and, where possible, will be worked out even in advance of the advent of peace in Europe, even though changing conditions then may make revisions necessary, it was learned here today.

Currently, of course, these and other industrial questions are being discussed only with Allied governments, and no negotiations with other European countries can be undertaken until their postwar pattern has been developed.

The recently strengthened motion picture section of the tele-communica-

(*Continued on page 9*)

Cooper Retires as MPDA Chairman

TORONTO, March 30.—Following the annual meeting of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association here yesterday, it was announced that Colonel John A. Cooper had retired as chairman of the board of directors on full salary, after serving the Canadian film industry for 24 years.

Cooper, now 76, will be succeeded

(*Continued on page 9*)

Wm. Fox Not Ready To Divulge Plans

Chicago, March 30.—Although William Fox indicated on his arrival here today from the Coast that he has plans to launch a new producing-distributing company, as had been reported, he declined to reveal any details nor would he confirm or deny published reports concerning his plans.

"When I am ready," he said, "I guarantee to tell all."

Fox left here this afternoon for Dayton, O., where he will spend several days before leaving for his New York home.

Personal Mention

JESSE L. LASKY left for the Coast yesterday.

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LESLIE F. WHELAN, 20th Century-Fox foreign publicity director, is due back in New York today from Hollywood.

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H. A. ROSS, president of Ross Federal Service, has returned to New York from the West and Midwest.

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STEVE EDWARDS, Republic publicity director, will leave for Boston over the weekend.

•

NAT GARTSMAN, formerly of Warner's Eastern publicity department, is now on Army duty in India.

•

RUDOLPH MONTER, United Artists producer, will leave for Hollywood today.

•

JACK B. BERKSON, PRC franchise holder, is visiting in Buffalo.

•

EDWARD M. SCHNITZER is expected back from Florida this weekend.

•

GEORGE KREAMER, United Artists auditor, is in Buffalo for a few weeks.

Electricians, Grips Submit Proposals

Producers' representatives yesterday received the proposals of the studio electricians and studio grips unions at the office of Pat Casey, producers' labor contact from IATSE representatives. No discussion proceeded on their merits nor were counter-proposals submitted.

Ostensibly the proposals included the demand by A. T. Dennison, business manager for Local 728, that the IATSE studio electricians receive jurisdiction over all lighting used in film studios for television. This demand is expected to come in conflict with the desire of the AFL-International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 40, for similar control of studio television lighting. Only two locals remain to present their demands to the producers, property men and studio laborers.

J. J. McGuirk, Pioneer Operator, Dies at 73

PHILADELPHIA, March 30.—John J. McGuirk, 73, pioneer motion picture theatre operator and former president and board chairman of the Stanley Company of America, controlling 600 film and vaudeville houses, died at his home in West Philadelphia today after a long illness.

In 1926 McGuirk succeeded Jules Mastbaum as president of the Stanley company on the latter's death. In 1927 he became president of First National Pictures.

Allied Delays on New Tax Committee

Formation of the Roundtable Conference of Exhibitor Organizations on Taxation, designed to attain unity of all exhibition factions in discriminatory Federal taxation, has been delayed by the failure of Allied States Association to publicly designate its three allotted representatives on the committee. Designations have been made by all other groups, including affiliated circuits, the MPTOA, PCCITO and various state organizations not nationally affiliated.

Allied's delay is unexplained in view of the action taken by a special Allied committee, several weeks ago, in recommending that the new tax committee be given Allied support. Allied's sub-committee consisted of Maxwell Alderman, Connecticut; Harry Loewenstein, New Jersey, Pete Wood, Ohio, and H. A. Cole, Dallas.

MPTOA's designees include Ed Kuykendall, president, Columbus, Miss.; Arthur Lockwood, Connecticut, and R. R. Biechele, Missouri. Designated by the PCCITO was Hugh Bruen. The Virginia MPTO representative is William Crockett and Henry Reed was named by the Texas Theatre Owners Association.

The new Roundtable Conference, the name of which is tentative pending the first full committee meeting, resulted from conflicting presentations of the industry's position during hearings in Congress, several weeks ago, when a new tax bill, effective Saturday, was being formulated.

Warner Executives at Meeting Here Today

Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Theatres; Harry Kalmine, assistant general manager, and Harry Goldberg, director of theatre advertising-publicity, will be among the speakers at a field contact-men's meeting which will get under way at the home office this morning, with W. Stewart McDonald, comptroller, and James M. Brennan, assistant treasurer, presiding.

Among the contact force attending the two-day sessions will be J. P. Faughnan, Albany; J. H. Barron, Chicago; L. Ratener, Cleveland; Phil Narod and L. E. Denis, New York; Robert Knepton, New Haven; J. Ellis Shipman and A. Piper, Philadelphia; B. W. Steerman, Pittsburgh; C. E. McGowan, Washington; L. F. Weinsz, Springfield, O., and S. Abrahamoff, Atlantic Theatres, Philadelphia.

Other home office theatre personnel present will include F. Kiernan, Joe Cullina, Dave Stadler, Neil Coogan, Abe Eller, Bernard Rosenzweig, Richard Ericson and Ray Ayrey.

O'Neill to Thompson

Jerry O'Neill, assistant to Columbia's home office art director Jack Meyers, will leave the company April 7 for a post in the typography department of the J. Walter Thompson Agency. O'Neill has been with Columbia since 1933.

Taxes, Rentals Make Exhibitors Suspend

Mexico City, March 30.—Exhibitors of Nayarit, Pacific Coast state, have suspended theatre operations because of excessive taxation. They have been paying ten per cent each to the municipal, state and federal governments, plus five per cent additionally to the state's better road program and five per cent to the Nayarit public works drive. The Nayarit public is attempting to secure a modification in taxation for exhibitors.

In the city of Leon, exhibitors have quit theatre operation complaining of excessive film rentals.

SOPEG, 3 Companies Set Classifications

Officials of the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO, will meet with representatives of 20th Century-Fox here today to work out job classifications for home office "white-collarites." Similar meetings were held this week with RKO, Columbia and Loew's.

Tentative agreements are reported to have been reached between SOPEG and the four companies on approximately 100 job titles within 29 labor grades and the task of classifying employes within these groups has now begun. SOPEG represents some 3,000 film office workers here. It is estimated that the classification job will be completed within three weeks. After that negotiations will begin on increases for workers to be given through classifications.

Creditors of Grand National Meet Today

Peter B. Olney, bankruptcy referee in U. S. District Court here, has called a special meeting for 10 a.m. today for creditors of Grand National Pictures, bankrupt, at his office in the U. S. Court House, Foley Square, to act upon Screencraft Pictures' offer to pay Harry G. Fromberg, trustee, $5,000 for rights and interest in the bankrupt estate.

A sale would not alter the trustee's position with the right to collect and receive percentages and other receivables from Mohawk Film Corp., distributor of Grand National films.

Farewell Party Held For Paul Lazarus, Jr.

The advertising-publicity department of United Artists gave a farewell party last night at Toots Shor's restaurant for Paul Lazarus, Jr., advertising-publicity director, who will go into the Army on Friday, April 7.

Among those present, in addition to Lazarus, were: Lou Pollock, Arthur Jeffrey, Arnold Stoltz, Wilma Freeman, Martin Starr, Herbert Jaediker, Howard Le Sieur, H. (Spence) Berg, Tess Michaels, J. Albert Hirsch, Bernie Kamber, Phil Laufer, Elaine Wayne, Robert Goodfriend, Robert Cooper and Irene McKenna.

Chas. Martin Leaves For Selznick Post

Charles Martin, radio producer-director-writer, is en route to Hollywood, where his original, "Double Furlough," of radio, will soon go into production for David O. Selznick.

Martin is accredited with being the first to allow more than the usual credit to film releases in radio. He argued down vetoes imposed by agency executives and sponsors when more than one credit found its way into air scripts.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th Street & 6th Avenue
RITA HAYWORTH . GENE KELLY
"COVER GIRL"
in TECHNICOLOR . A Columbia Picture
Music by Jerome Kern . Lyrics by Ira Gershwin
Gala Stage Show . Symphony Orchestra
1st Mezzanine Seats Reserved. CIrcle 6-4600

EXCLUSIVE! SOUTH AMERICAN FRONT — 1944 LATEST MARCH of TIME
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
NOW PLAYING
Maria Montez . Jon Hall
Turhan Bey
'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'

DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S
"The PURPLE HEART"
PLUS ON STAGE—COUNT BASIE and ORCH.—CAROL BRUCE—ZERO MOSTEL
BUY MORE BONDS ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

PARAMOUNT'S
"LADY IN THE DARK"
In Technicolor
IN PERSON
XAVIER CUGAT And BAND
DEAN MURPHY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
1st N. Y. Showing
'HER PRIMITIVE MAN'
starring
LOUISE ALLBRITTON
ROBT. PAIGE
IN PERSON
LEO CARRILLO
Earl 'Father' HINES and ORCHESTRA
OTHER BIG ACTS

20th CENTURY-FOX Presents FRANZ WERFEL'S
THE SONG OF BERNADETTE
Continuous . Doors Open 9:30 am Rivoli B'way & 49th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Leonard Gneier, Correspondent; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; T. J. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1944 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Another way to spell

TERRIFIC!



Tampico



Another on its way from 20th Century-Fox

TAMPICO



starring

EDWARD G. ROBINSON

with

LYNN BARI

VICTOR McLAGLEN



and

Robert Bailey
Marc Lawrence
E. J. Ballantine
Mona Maris
Tonio Selwart

Directed by
LOTHAR MENDES

Produced by
ROBERT BASSLER

Screen Play by Kenneth Gamet,
Fred Niblo, Jr. and Richard Macaulay
Original Story and Adaptation by Ladislas Fodo
Dances Staged by Geneva Sawyer

20th CENTURY-FOX

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

GIVE WAR BONDS PREFERRED SELLING TIME!

Press to Capital For 'Dr. Wassell'

Representatives of New York newspapers, trade press, magazines, syndicates and other publications will leave tomorrow morning for Washington to attend the preview of Cecil B. DeMille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell" in Constitution Hall tomorrow evening. Proceeds of the showing will go to the U. S. Navy League's Red Cross Fund.

The New York contingent scheduled to attend includes: Bosley Crowther, *Times;* Howard Barnes, *Herald Tribune;* Kate Cameron, *Daily News;* Lee Mortimer, *Mirror;* Eileen Creelman, *Sun;* James O'Connor, *Journal-American;* Archer Winsten, *Post;* Alton Cook, *World-Telegram;* Irene Thirer, *Post;* Charles Wagner, *Mirror;* Pauline Williams, *World-Telegram.*

Also, Terry Ramsaye, *Motion Picture Herald;* Jay Emanuel, *The Exhibitor;* Sherwin Kane, MOTION PICTURE DAILY; Al Steen, *Film Daily;* James M. Jerauld, *Boxoffice;* Roy Chartier, *Variety;* Pete Harrison, *Harrison's Reports;* Tom Kennedy, *Showmen's Trade Review;* Jack Harrison, *Hollywood Reporter.*

The party will be accompanied by Robert Gillham, Al Wilkie, Aileen St. John Brenon, C. N. Odell, Tom Waller and Al Finestone of Paramount.

Mervin Hauser of the studio publicity staff, has been in Washington for the past ten days handling advance arrangements, and Robert M. Weitman, managing director of the New York Paramount Theatre, will leave for Washington today to supervise preparations.

SAG Rejects SPU Bid for Compromise

HOLLYWOOD, March 30.—In the face of testimony being presented here in the National Labor Relations Board hearing on the Screen Players Union petition for an election to determine the bargaining agency for extras, SPU leaders today sought out Screen Actors Guild leaders and requested "some sort of compromise autonomy plan," but the offer was rejected.

"We will not consider any such move," stated SAG officials, "until the present hearing is concluded. When this pressure is relieved, we may consider such a matter again."

An autonomy plan offered to the extras by the guild several months ago was rejected by an overwhelming vote of Class "B" members.

Today in the hearing, Kenneth Thompson, former SAG executive secretary, continued on the stand, testifying that only 20 percent of the extras "occasionally do bit parts or speak lines in pictures," thus attempting to blast claims of SPU witnesses that bit players should be included in an autonomous union of extras.

Dietz Show to Open

PALM BEACH, Fla., March 30.—"Tars and Spars," Coast Guard recruiting show, will have its premiere at the Paramount Theatre here next Wednesday. The cast, headed by Victor Mature, former film star now in the Coast Guard, includes many screen and stage players. The show was written by Howard Dietz and Lt. Vernon Duke and directed by Max Liebman.

Review

"Her Primitive Man"

(Universal)

UNIVERSAL'S "Her Primitive Man" is a gay little comedy dealing with the amusingly desperate extremes to which an enterprising young author will go to get a book published. Robert Paige is the author who doubles as a cannibal, of all things, to get even with Louise Allbritton, a sophisticated anthropologist and daughter of an aristocratic family who exposes him. The supporting cast is important, including Robert Benchley, Edward Everett Horton, Helen Broderick, Walter Catlett, Ernest Truex, Stephanie Bachelor, Louis Jean Heydt and Nydia Westman and they contribute neatly, providing an appealing package of light entertainment. Michael Fessier and Ernest Pagano, producers and authors of the screenplay, provided an attractive production for their diverting script and dirctor Charles Lamont keeps the farce moving at a pleasant pace.

The original, credited to Nick Irving Hyland, has Paige perpetrating a neat fraud upon publisher Benchley by composing a sensational adventure tome titled "Love and Death Among the Lupari Head Hunters." The material was written in a Havana bar with the aid of bartender Horton, who actually did spend some time with the "Luparis." As president of an anthropological society, Miss Allbritton exposes Paige's work even before it is published. To aid to Paige's woes, he becomes financially indebted to Miss Bachelor, who seeks to ensnare him in matrimony. Discovering Miss Allbritton's plan to write her own book about a "Lupari's" reaction to New York life, with Horton's help, Paige manages to perpetrate another fraud, this time upon Miss Allbritton by posing as a Lupari and acting in New York as her specimen. In the shennanigans that follow, Paige succeeds in creating quite a furore here and eventually wins Miss Allbritton. It is all good clean fun, handled in good taste by a capable cast.

Running time, 79 min. "G."* Release date, April 21.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

**"G" denotes general classification.*

ClearanceComplaint New Award Filed

A new clearance complaint has been filed at the Washington tribunal and a corrected award entered at the Boston tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

Ike Weiner, operating the Waldorf Theatre, Leonardtown, Md., filed a clearance complaint at the Washington tribunal against Warners. The plaintiff states that his theatre is located 18 miles from Upper Marlboro, Md. Further, that the Marlboro Theatre, Upper Marlboro, has a 21-day clearance after first-run Washington houses and a 14-day clearance over the Waldorf. Complainant requests that the clearance be reduced to one day and availability of product be fixed at not to exceed 35 days after first-runs in Washington.

At Boston, Matthew Brown, arbitrator, entered a corrected award in the clearance awards of the Randolph Amusement Co., operators of the Randolph, Randolph, Mass., against the five decree companies. In the original award, the arbitrator dismissed the complaint against 20th-Fox because at the time of the hearing no contracts were believed to have existed between the plaintiff and 20th. Upon further examination, however, Brown found that contracts did exist, and the complainant is enjoying the exact relief requested. Therefore, the complaint against 20th-Fox is dismissed.

MacGowan to Paramount

HOLLYWOOD, March 30.—Kenneth MacGowan, whose producer contract with 20th-Fox expires on Saturday, has been signed as a producer by Paramount.

Five Events on Para. Promotion Program

Paramount has lined up five more events in a heavy concentration of promotion on new pictures.

On Saturday the Governmental and diplomatic preview of Cecil B. De Mille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell" will be held at Constitution Hall in Washington. On April 6, "The Memphis Belle" will be given its world premiere in Memphis, with all of the city's first run theatres showing the film. On April 20, a "global" premiere of "Going My Way" will be staged for U. S. servicemen at all battlefronts, with 65 16mm prints ordered. On April 26, "Dr. Wassell" will have its premiere at two theatres in Little Rock, Ark., followed on May 6 by the premiere of "The Hitler Gang," on Broadway here.

Three previous events on the Paramount promotion schedule were the March 24 world premiere of "The Navy Way" at the U. S. Naval Station, Great Lakes, Ill., simultaneous with a public premiere at Waukegan, Ill.; a press preview of "The Memphis Belle" last Wednesday at the National Press Club in Washington, and a reception, also on Wednesday, given here for Ed Gardner, the "Archie" of "Duffy's Tavern," on the eve of his leaving for Hollywood to star in a picture based on his radio program.

Weinberg to Tour

Louis Weinberg, Columbia circuit sales executive, will leave New York today for a series of meetings with company exchange heads on the current Columbia "Dates to Win" campaign. He will be gone one month.

Coast Flashes

Hollywood, March 30

MAURICE JANOV, Vanguard treasurer, has resigned to join the Navy and will be succeeded by Earl Beaman.

•

Fred Aherne has been assigned as unit manager for Dore Schary's "Double Furlough," starring Ginger Rogers, for Vanguard Pictures. The film will be a United Artists release, and is tentatively scheduled to start shooting April 3.

•

Lucien Hubbard today resigned as associate producer on Lester Cowan's "GI Joe," based on Ernie Pyle's "Here Is Your War." Hubbard planes to Washington tomorrow to assume civilian duties with the Air Force.

•

Walter Batchelor, Fred Allen's agent, is here for conferences with Jack A. Skirball on the picture the comedian is scheduled to start in June.

•

Max Fellerman is here to confer with Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz on Banner productions for Monogram.

•

United Artists district managers J. J. Unger, Rud Lohrenz, Fred Jack and W. E. Calloway have arrived here for product inspection.

•

RKO has added "All Brides Are Beautiful" to Jack Gross' production schedule and has purchased "Albany Night Boat" for a musical.

'Ukraine in Flames' At Stanley Tomorrow

"Ukraine in Flames," Soviet documentary of Russia's battle for the Ukraine, distributed in the United States through Artkino, will open tomorrow at the Stanley here.

The film was photographed by 24 cameramen during the offensive. Among scenes recorded is the exhumation of 14,000 murdered civilians and Red Army prisoners in the Babi Yar ravine outside Kharkov.

The film was edited under supervision of Alexander Dovzhenko who also wrote the Russian commentary. Alexander Werth, foreign correspondent, translated the commentary into English, the narration of which is handled by Bill Downs, CBS European correspondent.

No Film Industries In Deferment List

WASHINGTON, March 30.—A preliminary list of 15 critical industries in which highly skilled and irreplaceable men under 26 may be deferred, was issued here today by the War Production Board.

The definition did not include raw film stock manufacture, nor other film equipment industries.

Four for 'U' on B'way

With the opening today of "Weird Woman" at the Rialto Theatre here, Universal will have four pictures on Broadway. "Her Primitive Man," at Loew's State; "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves," in its third week at the Palace, and "The Impostor," at the Criterion, are the other three.

"A PICTURE THAT EVERY AMERICAN WILL WANT TO SEE!"

—*Daily Variety*





Proudly Released by M-G-M

"TUNISIAN VICTORY" is the official feature-film-record of the first great combined operations and victory of the American, British and French forces. Filmed under fire by more than 50 cameramen (4 of whom were killed) on land, on the sea, and in the air. The full significance and triumph of the campaign revealed for the first time.

"A great picture... no American, no Briton can afford not to see it."
—George Fielding Eliot, Military Expert, N.Y. Herald Tribune

"No previous film record has ever equalled this."
—Showmen's Trade Review

"Dramatic... thrilling... vividly portrayed."
—M. P. Daily

SEE! The mightiest armada of invasion ships ever assembled!

SEE! American heroes storm the beaches!

SEE! The fall of Casablanca, Oran, Hill 609!

SEE! The blasting of the Mareth Line!

SEE! The surprise maneuver of American troops that sparked the final victory!

5,927 Houses Ready For Second Weekend Of Red Cross Drive

(Continued from page 1)

yet unreported are also extending their campaigns.

Advices from more than 900 additional theatres yesterday that they would extend their campaigns through the second weekend was described by Joseph Bernhard, national industry chairman for the campaign, not only as a reflection of the widespread cooperative spirit of exhibitors in an urgent cause but also as giving support to the hope that the goal of the motion picture division would be attained.

Sam Rinzler and Fred Schwartz, exhibitor co-chairmen for the New York metropolitan area, notified the industry's Red Cross headquarters yesterday that they had succeeded in getting every theatre in this territory to go along through the weekend.

Studio Subscriptions Top 1943 by $40,000

HOLLYWOOD, March 30.—Corporate subscriptions to the local studios' Red Cross drive to date total $40,000 above 1943 and $1,000 above the War Chest drive record, Chairman Frank Carothers reported today at a Red Cross luncheon. RKO subscriptions are 60 per cent above last year; Warners, 45 per cent.

The total number of contributions thus far total 22,116, 1,000 ahead of 1943, but 500 short of the War Chest record. M-G-M leads with 4,134. Warners are second, Fox third and Paramount fourth. The campaign will continue two more weeks.

$15,000 from Skouras' 'Lifeboat' Benefit

Approximately $15,000 was grossed at a Red Cross premiere of "Lifeboat," plus a stage show, presented last night at the Academy of Music, local Skouras circuit house.

The performance, handled by Bill White, circuit executive, and Nate Simons, manager of that theatre, was sold out in advance, at a scale up to $7.70.

Osborn on 16-mm on Radio Show Sunday

Gen. Frederick H. Osborn, chief of the morale services division, Army Service Forces, will discuss on the "We, the People" air-show the industry's gift of 16-mm prints of current films to the Army for showing to servicement overseas in combat areas, Red Cross hospitals and at isolated outposts. The program will originate in New York over WABC and will be heard over CBS, beginning at 7:30 P.M., New York time, on Sunday.

General Osborn, recently returned from a 30,000-mile tour of the Pacific theatre, is expected to stress the use of films as a means of easing combat fatigue.

Lee Co. Elects Griffis

Stanton Griffis, Paramount executive committee chairman, now on leave to the Office of War Information, yesterday was elected chairman of the executive committee of the Lee Tire and Rubber Company.

Reviews

"The Chinese Cat"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, March 30

SECOND in Monogram's series of Charlie Chan pictures is an improvement on the first, which was rated an excellent start. "The Chinese Cat" flows more smoothly and contains more humor, handled principally by Mantan Moreland and the central character, portrayed again, and expertly, by Sidney Toler.

The original screenplay by George Callahan commits its first murder in the second scene and spots the second and third in advantageous places later on. The plot has to do with diamonds and thieves, plus some secret panels and a 'Fun House' deserted by everybody but desperadoes. Chan is the only one who knows the solution of the crimes and he does not reveal it until the end of the picture.

Others in the cast are Weldon Heyburn, Joan Woodbury, Benson Fong, Sam Flint, Cy Kendall, Anthony Warde, Dewey Robinson, John Davidson, Ian Keith, Betty Blythe, I. Stanford Jolley, Jack Norton and Luke Chan. Production by Philip N. Krasne and James S. Burkett is high grade, and Phil Rosen's direction satisfies requirements.

Running time, 65 minutes. "G."* Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER.

"Detective Kitty O'Day"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, March 30

JEAN PARKER as the girl who undertakes detecting to save her boy friend from suspicion, and Tim Ryan as the detective-in-chief whose life she makes miserable, plus Edward Gargan in another of his dumb-sleuth portrayals, make the most of their opportunities in this variation of the comedy about the multiple murders minus motive, in this case three. It's not the best treatment the subject has had, nor the worst, ranking somewhere on the up side of par for the distance, and it has more action than most.

The screenplay is by Ryan and Victor Hammond, from a story by the latter, and the scene is any big city. There are no references to the war, rationing or other matters that tend to date the tale or detract from its tenor of levity. Production by Lindsley Parsons and direction by William Beaudine present the material and talents advantageously.

Peter Cookson, Veda Ann Borg, Douglas Fowley, Herbert Heyes, Edward Earle, Pat Gleason and Olaf Hytten are in the supporting cast.

Running time, 63 minutes. "G."* Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER.

**"G" denotes general classification.*

'Jane Eyre' Takes $6,500 Over Par

DENVER, March 30.—Bad weather during the past week slowed up business here. High for the week was the Denver, with "Jane Eyre" on a dual bringing in $19,500. "None Shall Escape" on a twin bill at the Paramount was expected to score $11,250.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 26-29:

"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
"Hat Check Honey" (Univ.)
ALADDIN — (1,400) (30c-40c-50c-60c) 7 days, moveover. Gross: $6,250. (Average: $5,000).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
"Men On Her Mind" (PRC)
BROADWAY—(1,040) (30c-40c-50c-60c) 7 days, moveover. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $2,500).
"Standing Room Only" (Para.)
DENHAM — (1,750) (30c-40c-55c-65c) 7 days, second week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $7,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Hi Good Lookin'" (Univ.)
DENVER—(2,600) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $13,000).
"Jane Eyre" (20th-Fox)
"Hi Good Lookin'" (Univ.)
ESQUIRE—(740) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $3,000).
"None Shall Escape" (Col.)
"Sailors Holiday" (Col.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,200) (30c-40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,250. (Average: $9,000).
"The Purple Heart" (20th-Fox)
"Weekend Pass" (Univ.)
RIALTO—(900) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days, moveover. Gross: $4,600. (Average: $4,600).

'Broke', Show Add Up to Good $20,000

ST. LOUIS, March 30.—George White's Scandals and "Beautiful But Broke" boosted the Fox out in front this week with $20,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 29:

"Rationing" (M-G-M)
"Hey, Rookie" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,163) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $18,900).
"Chip Off the Old Block" (Univ.)
"Doughboys in Ireland" (Col.)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $9,900).
"Beautiful but Broke" (Col.)
FOX — (5,038) (50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $18,700).
"The Song of Bernadette" (20th-Fox)
AMBASSADOR—(3,154) (75c-$1.10) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $15,700).
"What a Woman" (Col.)
"Crime Doctor's Strangest Case" (Col.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM — (1,900) (30c-40c-50c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,100).
"The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (Para.)
"Women in Bondage" (Mono.)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (30c-40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,100).
"No Time for Love" (Para.)
"Riding High" (Para.)
ST. LOUIS — (4,000) (35c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,200).

'Glass Key' Reissued

Paramount's "The Glass Key" is being reissued in the metropolitan New York area and has opened in Loew houses here.

Rank Has 3 Millions in 'U'

(Continued from page 1)

outstanding as of Oct. 30, valued at a total current market price of $7,621,418. There is also outstanding a total of 1,097,623 actual shares of common stock.

In another SEC report, Setay Co., Inc., New York, was shown to have disposed of 154,173 shares of common and 31,250 shares of part-preferred stock of Consolidated Film Industries by exchange. The other party to the exchange was apparently Associated Motion Picture Industries, Fort Lee, N. J., which held 154,173 shares of common stock and, after sales of 1,000 shares in January and 200 shares in February, 30,050 shares of the part-preferred stock.

Atlas Took RKO Shares

A report on Radio-Keith-Orpheum showed that in January Atlas Corp. took over 344,998 shares of common stock held through the Rotary Electric Steel Co., an Atlas affiliate, giving it a total of 1,329,021 shares. A residue of 232 shares held by Rotary was distributed in February. Atlas also took over 3,227 shares of preferred held through the steel company in January and purchased 940 shares, giving it a total of 57,338 shares at the close of the month; a remaining three shares held by the steel company was disposed of by distribution in February.

February reports included one on Columbia Pictures showing the division between Joseph A. McConville and A. Montague, of 202 shares of common held jointly, giving McConville 101 and Montague 106 shares. Other reports showed that Loew's, Inc., acquired seven more shares of Loew's Boston Theatres common stock, giving it a total of 120,637 shares.

Reports on holdings of persons becoming officers or directors of registered companies showed that Donald Stralem, New York, held 600 shares of Columbia Pictures common, when he joined the directorate on Feb. 9, and that George M. Gillespie, Jr., New York, held no General Precision Equipment securities when he became a director Feb. 25.

Cleveland Grants 'Seabees' $8,000

CLEVELAND, March 30.—"The Fighting Seabees" lured them in at the Ohio over the weekend, justifying an anticipated big $8,000 week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 29:

"Gung Ho" (Univ.)
ALLEN—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,500).
"Tender Comrade" (RKO)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME—(3,500) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $22,100).
"Lifeboat" (20th-Fox)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,200).
"The Fighting Seabees" (Rep.)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,000).
"Chip Off the Old Block" (Univ.)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (50c-60c-85c-95c) 7 days. Stage: Chico Marx, Louis Prima orch. Ray Eberle, etc. Gross: $33,000. (Average: $25,400).
"Broadway Rhythm" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $19,000).
"Standing Room Only" (Para.)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,000).

5,600 Operators In Armed Forces

(Continued from page 1)

acute, *Motion Picture Herald* will say today, scores of projectionists hitherto exempt because of their age and family status, will be called. Small, subsequent-run houses in the cities and small town theatres are especially feeling the manpower lack; the large metropolitan circuits and larger independents report no acute shortage of projectionists as yet.

Although replacements have been amply supplied from local union memberships to date, local and national IATSE officials admit continued requirements by the Army and war industry at the current pace may result in a keen shortage of projectionists before mid-Summer.

Convention Problems

At the IATSE convention, scheduled for late in May, plans for the issuance of union cards to temporary war replacements, and for the acceptance of apprentices are expected to stand out front in discussions. Policy on the admission of veterans is also expected to be determined by the international executive board.

The flow of men into the armed services is not entirely one-sided, however, for about 1,200 projectionists have returned. Also released have been some Army-trained projectionists, but none of these have joined the union, some few having gone to work in non-union houses.

In New York City, Local 306 reported that it had had no difficulty in replacing the 50 members who have gone into service or into defense work. On the Pacific Coast replacements, in part, have been met by temporary transfers from other locals in the West, according to James Brennan, 'IA' vice-president.

Cooper Retires as MPDA Chairman

(Continued from page 1)

by E. H. Wells who will take charge of the association's office in his official capacity of secretary-treasurer. Cooper plans to continue activities as secretary of the Canadian Musical Protective Association and also with the Canadian Red Cross in which he holds several offices including chairmanship of the Red Cross committee of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Association. He is also vice-president of the Tandy Advertising Agency.

Cooper was an organizer of the Canadian Press Association of which he was secretary from 1895 to 1901. He was a commanding officer in the Canadian Buffs infantry battalion overseas in the last war and headed a British trade mission to New York for several years immediately following the war, after which he organized the association for the film industry in the Dominion, becoming virtually the Will Hays of Canada.

Kingsberg in Chicago

CHICAGO, March 30. — Malcolm Kingsberg, RKO vice-president and treasurer, is among the many industry executives attending the Mort Singer funeral here.

Tax Effective at Midnight; U.S. Cites Basic Procedure

(Continued from page 1)

ment. The Bureau points out the especially important advice to circuits and to theatres playing percentage pictures that "whenever in the course of business a report is prepared by a theatre treasurer or manager for the benefit of the proprietor, or by the proprietor, treasurer, or manager for the benefit of some other interested party, whether the report be made daily, or at regular intervals or at any time, a sworn copy of the report must be attached to and made a part of the records for the period covered thereby."

All persons required to collect tax on admissions must make a monthly report which, together with the amount of the tax, must be in the hands of the Collector of Internal Revenue of the district in which is located the principal office or place of business of the person required to make the return, on or before the last day of the month following that for which it is made.

Serial Numbers

Name of theatre (only one name permitted), date for which a ticket is good or a serial number and, separately, the admission price, tax and total must be printed on each ticket, and no ticket may be used more than once or at any other place than the theatre named on it, under the tax law.

The serial numbers must be printed in consecutive order, from 1 to 500,000, after which the next series must be preceded or followed by a letter, beginning with "A." A stub showing the admission price and tax must be retained for six months. Where tickets have become obsolete or unusable they may be destroyed only in the presence of a representative of the Collector of Internal Revenue.

A daily record must be kept of admissions of all classes, and it must identify each series by showing the established price, number of tickets sold at that established price, prices other than established ones, for which tickets are sold, the number of tickets sold at each such price, the number of taxable free admissions, the number of non-taxable free admissions, the tax due, and the opening and closing serial numbers of each numerical sequence. Daily records must be retained by exhibitors four years.

Free Ticket Requirements

Taxable free tickets must show all information required on tickets that are sold; nontaxable free tickets must show the class of person to whom issued, and reduced rate tickets must show the price for which sold and the tax paid in addition to the established price. Where there are special reduced prices for members of the armed forces and for children, a separate form of ticket, serially numbered, must be used, showing the special price and that the ticket is to be presented only by such persons.

Willful failure to keep proper records of tickets and admissions is punishable by a fine up to $10,000, or imprisonment up to one year.

'Nine Girls', Show Lead in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, March 30. — Fair weather aided an upward trend over the weekend, with "Nine Girls" and a stage show at the RKO Albee pacing with an approximate $30,000. "Passage to Marseille" is pointing to around $13,500 at the RKO Capitol.

Estimated receipts for the week ending March 29-April 1:

"Nine Girls" (Col.)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (40c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: Jimmy Dorsey and orchestra, "Peg Leg" Bates and Curley and Marcia. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $22,000).

"Passage to Marseille" (WB)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $10,000).

"Lady in the Death House" (PRC)
"Mojave Firebrand" (Rep.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 4 days. Gross: $1,600. (Average: $1,400).

"The Rains Came" (20th-Fox)
"Under Two Flags" (20th-Fox)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (25c-35c) 3 days. Gross: $900. (Average: $800).

"The Sullivans" (20th-Fox)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $9,500).

"Up in Arms" (RKO-Goldwyn)
KEITH'S—($1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show, 3rd week, moveover from the RKO Shubert after first week at the RKO Palace. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $5,000).

"Chip Off the Old Block" (Univ.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,200).

"Standing Room Only" (Para.)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,000).

"A Star Is Born" (UA)
"Made for Each Other" (UA)
RKO SHUBERT—(1,500) (35c-40c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $5,600).

Plans Readied for 50th Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

first shown to the public at the opening of the Kinetoscope Parlor at 1155 Broadway, New York.

The committee has prepared a press book for exhibitors. It contains the history of films, historical stills and anniversary feature stories and layouts. The exploitation section has suggestions and material for theatre displays, local celebrations, radio contests and a list of early films.

Local exhibitors are urged by the PIC committee to form local committees in their territories. A national exhibitors' committee has been organized with Harold Fitzgerald, president of the Fox-Wisconsin Circuit, as chairman, as previously reported.

Plans are underway to reconstruct, where possible, the first theatres in each community, for the showing of early films. Civic groups, local educational leaders and organizations will be asked to participate. Industries connected with the motion picture industry are said to be cooperating, and in addition plans have been made for tie-ups with the beauty, fashion and home furnishings industries.

$1.50 RKO Dividend

The board of directors of RKO, at a meeting held here yesterday, declared a dividend of $1.50 per share on its six percent preferred stock, payable May 1, 1944 to holders of record at close of business April 20, 1944. This is the regular dividend for the quarter ending April 30.

Talk Postwar Film Problems With Allies

(Continued from page 1)

tions division of the Department is amassing a great amount of material which will be of value in settling various questions affecting the distribution of American films after the war, under the administration of Francis De Wolfe.

Officials of the division have made no secret of their belief that American films should be given worldwide distribution as a means of spreading American culture and that, to attain this, they should be free of all restrictions, especially of censorship, except for the necessary police surveillance for moral purposes.

Oppose Discrimination

In the light of this position it is expected that the Department will exert its efforts to prevent the enactment abroad of laws discriminatory to American pictures, such as selective tariffs, quotas, exchange controls and other barriers which prevailed in many countries before the war.

It is De Wolfe's belief that consideration of these problems should not be left until the end of the war but that they should be worked out, so far as possible, well in advance so that a definite policy and program can be submitted to the international bodies which will consider economic, trade, financial and other problems at the peace conferences which will mark the end of hostilities.

Like other officials, De Wolfe does not see the affairs of the motion picture industry or of any other individual industry brought up at the "peace table," which will be devoted to the larger aspects of the terms to be granted the conquered enemy, but they will be considered by committees which will meet either before or after the peace conference or even simultaneously therewith, to chart the way for the revival of world trade and industry and the regeneration of Europe.

Work With Industry

In the development of their program, Department officials are maintaining a close contact with the industry, members of which are expected to be consulted on the various problems which must be dealt with. Numerous meetings have been held with representatives of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America and individual members of the industry drop into the Department from time to time.

TBA Meeting Today

The board of directors of the Television Broadcasters Association will meet today in the TBA offices, 500 Fifth Ave., at 2:30 P. M. Directors include F. J. Bingley, Robert L. Gibson, O. B. Hanson, E. A. Hayes, Curtis W. Mason, Worthington C. Minor, Paul Raibourn, Lewis Allen Weiss, vice-president, and Allen B. DuMont, president.

Mexico Made 12 So Far

MEXICO CITY, March 30.—Mexican studios produced 12 pictures during January and February.

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by Daniel and Jule Mannix who act and direct this thrilling drama of nature's own battle for survival, filmed in the mountains of Mexico in wonderful technicolor.

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